

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
470,000
No 63,035

Mob murders prompt Ulster police review

● Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has announced an immediate review of the policing of paramilitary funerals in Ulster.

● PC Clive Graham, aged 25, and single, from Cloughmills, Co Antrim, was shot dead by the IRA while he was on patrol in Londonderry.

● By the time an Army helicopter filming the funeral identified that the two men being attacked were soldiers it was too late to save them.

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

An immediate review of the policing of paramilitary funerals in Northern Ireland was announced by Mr Tom King yesterday as the Commons united in its revulsion at the mob murder of two soldiers in Belfast.

As the British and Irish governments decided to hold a summit later this week to discuss the latest series of horrific deaths, Mr King told a sombre and outraged House that a huge murder investigation was under way to

bring those responsible to justice.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland denied flatly that there had been any political interference over the policing of Saturday's funeral or ones that preceded it.

The policing decisions had been taken by Sir John Hermon, the chief constable, "after the most careful assessment of all the relevant

circumstances". Mr King made clear that he fully supported them.

In a detailed account of Saturday's events Mr King said it would probably never be known why the two soldiers, Corporals Derek Wood and David Howes, came to be where they were in the Andersonstown Road.

He said they had no reason to be in the vicinity of the funeral; it was not an approved route for soldiers on duty at the time, and there was "absolutely no question" of their being involved in surveillance or any other duties connected with the funeral.

With Mrs Margaret Thatcher, seated in black sitting alongside him, Mr King said that Saturday had "revealed the IRA in its real, unspeakable nastiness". People throughout the island of Ireland had seen on television "the sort of people who want to take power over them".

As expected he gave no indications of any big changes in overall policing policy as a result of the outrage.

At Westminster last night Mr King made clear to reporters that the review of funeral policing would be unlikely to result in announcements about changes and there will not be a code setting out how the police should respond.

"There are people around who have no scruples and who would like to know in advance what the police arrangements might be for the purposes of causing maximum embarrassment and discomfort."

Rather the changes would become apparent when the funerals took place.

It is clear that the chief constable will make his policing arrangements on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature and sensitivity of the funerals in question, but

senior Conservatives now believe it highly unlikely that funerals such as Saturday's would be allowed to go ahead without big police presences.

Mr King had told the Commons that the violence at Milltown cemetery last Wednesday and last Saturday's tragedy were "wholly unacceptable and require immediate review in regard to policing to be followed at any future funeral."

Mr King impressed Conservative MPs with his handling of almost an hour of emotional exchanges in which many of the Northern Ireland MPs took part.

But some Conservatives, and not all of them hardliners, are to press privately for the introduction of tougher security measures.

Mr King rejected suggestions that the security forces were in some way prevented from intervening on Saturday. That, he said, was a "gross calumny" on the operational independence of the chief constable.

Mr Kevin McNamara emphasized the importance of "cool heads" in the face of the outrage. He supported the view that the chief constable should decide how best events should be policed in the emotion-charged atmosphere.

Mr King said that, in the initial stages of the incident, even with the use of the helicopter, it "took a little time to clarify exactly what was taking place."

"It is no secret that the first impression was that it might have been a further attempted bomb attack on the funeral."

That was one possibility. As soon as it was clearer that the matter was very much more serious, the police acted with considerable determination.

Mr King announced to the Commons that an easily memorable freephone telephone number will soon be available across Northern Ireland to support the fight against terrorism.

That was one of a range of new measures being pursued by the Government to make the operation of the paramilitaries more difficult.

These included attempts to stop the funding of terrorism, including the tackling of racketeering.

Mr King is to meet Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, later this week possibly tomorrow - in the intergovernmental conference set up under the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The City of Glasgow has joined the international battle to house the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection of paintings, 53 of which are being exhibited at present at the Royal Academy in London.

Glasgow will begin negotiating this week to have the collection, worth about £250 million, sited in a purpose-built gallery in the city.

Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza indicated his wish last week that the bulk of his 570 works of art should eventually be put on permanent display in a European city.

Glasgow is to ask Mr Rich-

Talks on security will be resumed

By Paul Valley and John Cooney

High level meetings between police chiefs on both sides of the Irish border, broken off by Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish premier, two months ago, are to resume this week.

The Irish Government yesterday dropped objections to meetings between its head of police, Commissioner Eamon Doherty, and Sir John Hermon, the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The last meeting between the two men was called off in January by the Irish as a protest against the decision by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, not to prosecute senior RUC officers after the Stalker report into allegations of a shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland in 1982.

The two police chiefs will join Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr Brian Lenihan, the republic's Foreign Minister, for emergency talks later this week on the security crisis in the north.

Top of the agenda will be the issue of how IRA funerals can best be controlled, against the background of strong criticism from Ulster Unionists about low key policing.

The decision to restart the talks was designed to register Dublin's concern over the deteriorating situation in Belfast during the past week in which nine people have died - the latest of them a police constable who was shot in the Creggan district of Londonderry yesterday morning.

Tensions were still running high in the province yesterday.

Politicians and church leaders across the religious divide engaged in mutual public recrimination over paramilitary violence. In the Markets area of Belfast police raided a house and uncovered 600lb of explosives.

The resumption of official contacts between the two senior policemen was approved by Mr Haughey when he met senior cabinet colleagues to discuss the spiralling violence in the north and the worsening relations between the two communities.

He is said to be alarmed that the deaths of three republican mourners at the funeral last Wednesday of those shot by the SAS at Gibraltar and the killings of two British soldiers last weekend might plunge West Belfast into an orgy of violence on the scale of Beirut.

The only way to avoid that, he believes, is to ensure that a policy of sensitive policing is maintained.

At the inter-governmental meeting, which may be in London, Mr Lenihan will press for a firm commitment from Mr King that the British Government will introduce legislation to outlaw job discrimination against the minority Roman Catholic community in the north.

Dublin takes the view that social and judicial improvements - rather than a military solution - are needed to end the alienation of the

Continued on page 24, col 6

Embrace of solidarity



Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Cape Town yesterday embracing the Right Rev Keith Sutton, who was sent by Dr Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, to show solidarity with the church leader in his tussle with the South African Government. Runcie's envoy, page 7

Iraqi chemical attack kill hundreds of Kurds

From Nicholas Beeston, Halabja, occupied Iraq

Hundreds and possibly thousands of Iraqi Kurdish civilians have been killed in one of the worst chemical weapon attacks against non-combatants since the start of the Gulf War.

The victims from the town of Halabja near the Iranian border were apparently targeted by Iraqi air force bombers after the area fell to Iranian forces in heavy fighting last week.

Iranian authorities in the area said that 3,000 people were killed and 10,000 injured in the reprisal raid and that the rest of the 40,000 civilians had been evacuated.

Journalists taken to the market town saw scores of bodies in the streets and in shelters had fallen victim to cyanide and nerve gas attacks.

Most of the wounded at hospitals in Tehran and Bakhtar were suffering from mustard gas exposure.

BP fined heavily after blast deaths

BP was fined £750,000 yesterday after the deaths of three men in two separate explosions at a Scottish refinery.

The High Court in Edinburgh was told the blasts at the Grangemouth refinery, near Falkirk, last March were the result of failures in BP's safety procedures.

One blast was heard 20 miles away. A 20-tonne steel plate vessel was shattered and part of it, weighing three tonnes, was hurled more than half a mile to the foreshore of the River Forth.

The force of the second explosion was equal to 90 kg of TNT. A radioactive isotope from a ruptured vessel had never been recovered in spite of intensive searches.

Lord Justice Allanbridge said he accepted both incidents were independent and it was a tragic coincidence that they had happened in such quick succession.

However, he said they

represented serious breaches of employers' duties under the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act. The fine must be substantial in a case where there were obvious hazards to the safety and lives of employees and others.

Lord Justice Allanbridge imposed a fine of £250,000 on the first charge and £500,000 on the second. BP Oil (Grangemouth) Refinery Limited admitted failing to conduct its undertaking in such a way as to ensure that employees of two sub-contractors carrying out work were not exposed to the risk of fire and explosions.

The court was told the company had failed to ensure that a section of a flare system was drained of gases and hydrocarbon liquids and was effectively isolated. Flammable liquid and gases had escaped and ignited.

James Bruce, aged 40, of

Continued on page 24, col 7

Union rules out Ford deal

By Martin Fletcher and Roland Rudd

The general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union last night pledged to maintain the position that has wrecked plans by Ford to build a components factory in Dundee, where 1,000 jobs would have been created.

Mr Ron Todd said he would not withdraw his opposition to a single-union agreement negotiated by the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU).

He told an emergency meeting of the TUC's finance and general purposes committee that the single union agreement broke the blue book agreement governing relations between unions and management and as such could not go unchallenged.

As the meeting was going on, Ford of America put out a statement making it clear that its decision to cancel the Dundee plant was final.

In the Commons, the Government challenged the Labour leadership to use its authority to end the inter-union squabbling that led Ford to abandon its plans for the £40 million factory.

Ministers held out the slim hope that the factory could yet be built if the unions dropped their objections to the single-union deal.

They have already said that they might try and persuade Ford to reconsider provided they had a "categorical assurance" of a change of heart by the 11 unions, led by the Transport workers, which are opposing the AEU agreement. Seamen are being urged to vote for a national strike that could lead to a shutdown of all ferry services from Britain to the Continent and Ireland.

Leaders of the National Union of Seamen decided yesterday to arrange the ballot before March 30, just two days before the holiday rush to the Continent is scheduled to begin.

However, shipping companies are already threatening legal action against the union. EFTU, page 12

Union war, page 12



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Glasgow bids for Masters

By Kerry Gill

The City of Glasgow has joined the international battle to house the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection of paintings, 53 of which are being exhibited at present at the Royal Academy in London.

Glasgow will begin negotiating this week to have the collection, worth about £250 million, sited in a purpose-built gallery in the city.

Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza indicated his wish last week that the bulk of his 570 works of art should eventually be put on permanent display in a European city.

Glasgow is to ask Mr Rich-

ard Luce, Minister for the Arts, to give the Government's backing to a plan to bring the collection to Scotland. The project would entail building a new gallery in Glasgow.

The city has asked Mr Norman Buchan MP, vice-chairman of the advisory committee for City of Culture 1990, to put the plan to Mr Luce.

The 50 Old Masters from the collection, the world's second-largest private art collection, are on display at the Royal Academy after an initiative by The Times.

Mr Pat Lally, leader of Glasgow City Council, said: "Glasgow has proved with the overwhelming success of the Burrell Collection that we can provide an exciting and popular home for major art collections."

Although the council has not yet identified a site for the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection, there are a number of possible venues close to the city centre.

The collection is presently housed in the baron's Swiss home at the Villa Farnata at Castagnola on Lake Lugano. Photograph, page 14

At the same time refugee organizations are sounding the alarm about the treatment of the boat people.

On March 1, there were 6,794 refugees living in desperately overcrowded huts under the control of the Hong Kong Government's Correctional Services Department, which used to be called the Prisons Department. Twenty per cent of them have been there for five or six years.

A report by Oxfam Hong Kong said that one camp, Hei Ling Chau, had only one toilet for males and one for

females in each hut containing 290 people sleeping in three-decked bunks. It quoted prison officials as being "dismayed by the mental deadness of the refugees" and criticized a serious lack of education and training facilities.

There are also unconfirmed reports of instances of refugees being addressed by numbers instead of names, and of harsh punishments for breaking camp rules, including, according to one source, cases of heads being shaved.

Saying that refugees were addressed by name, a Hong Kong official thought yesterday it was "very unlikely" that head-shaving would have

Refugee camps storm could embroil Princess

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Princess Royal is about to step into a controversy over conditions in closed refugee camps run for Vietnamese boat people by the Hong Kong Government. One charity official described the camps yesterday as prisons in all but name.

It was disclosed that she will visit one of the camps in September in her capacity as president of the Save the Children Fund. The visit has not yet been announced officially.

A senior foreign diplomatic source said yesterday that the Princess showed concern when told that large numbers of children were growing up in near-prison conditions. A charity worker is said to have described a

seven-year-old trying to explain to a five-year-old the difference between a dog and a cat, the younger child never having seen even a picture of either.

Before the criticism began to surface the Princess expressed her wish to see the Tuen Mun camp, where the fund has a relief programme. Tuen Mun is not the worst of the three camps, according to Mr Nicholas Hinton, the director general.

But her presence in the colony at a time of fierce debate of the future of the boat people is bound to be controversial.

The Hong Kong Legislative Council, anxious to reduce the HK\$122 million (£8.5 million) annual cost of the camps, is putting pressure on the British Government to take more

refugees. This was discussed yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir David Wilson, Governor of Hong Kong, whose talks dealt with resettlement rather than camp conditions.

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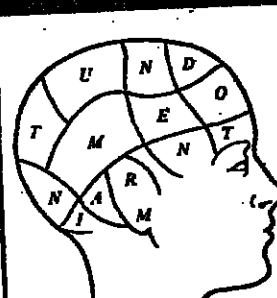
Saying that refugees were addressed by name, a Hong Kong official thought yesterday it was "very unlikely" that head-shaving would have

Continued on page 24, col 1

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● Today Portfolio
Accumulator stands at
£116,000 - or there is
the chance to win the
daily prize of £2,400.
● Yesterday's winners,
page 3

TOURNAMENT OF
THE MIND



● The answers to The
Times Tournament of
the Mind, which has
attracted many
thousands of entries,
will be published over
four days this week,
beginning tomorrow.

IN PART 2

\$1.6bn bid
Beazer, the British building group, has raised its bid for Kopper, the US group, to a formidable \$1.6 billion (£888 million). Page 25

McMahon out
Steve McMahon, the Liverpool midfielder, is out of contention for the England team to face The Netherlands at Wembley tomorrow because of injury. Page 48

TIMES FOCUS

Once a small part of the travel industry, business travel is now a key sector in its own right - and growing. Special Report, pages 17-20

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Two pay £1,000 Commons debts

An MP and a former MP have narrowly escaped unprecedented legal action to recover debts run up in House of Commons restaurants. Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, and Mr John Ryman, Labour MP for Blyth Valley in the last Parliament, have both repaid debts of more than £1,000 for which the Commons authorities have been pressing for many months.

The Commons Catering committee, which was informed of the repayments at a meeting last week, had been preparing to pass the matter to the legal managers at the Palace of Westminster.

The committee, chaired by the Tory MP Mr Charles Irving, has systematically cracked down on debtors, introducing new rules for repayment and reducing the total outstanding from £250,000 in 1979 to virtually nothing.

Big vote for fund

Members of Nalco, the National and Local Government Officers' Association, have voted in favour of a having a political fund.

Two-thirds of the membership voted and 77 per cent were in favour.

Since the Government made it compulsory in 1984 for unions to ballot their members on establishing or retaining political funds, 50 unions — more than half the total — have voted, all of them in favour.

Nalco, the fifth largest union is affiliated to the TUC, but not to the Labour Party.

Lion bit off arm

A farmworker whose arm was bitten off by a circus lion has been paid £40,000 compensation.

Mr Robert Holmes, of Delph Lane, Little Crosby, Merseyside, was injured at Hill Farm near where four lions were being kept, the High Court at Liverpool was told yesterday.

Mr Gordon Bellis, for Mr Holmes, said the barrier around the lion's cage had gaps in it. The farm owners and Mr Martin Lacey, a lion trainer, of Widnes, Cheshire, offered to pay the £40,000 costs.

Kidnap gang jailed

Three men were jailed yesterday for abducting and torturing a young Territorial Army soldier in a republican area of Belfast. The soldier was bound, blindfolded and had his jaw broken. He was psychologically scarred, Mr Justice Carswell told Belfast Crown Court.

Only a well-directed operation by security forces saved him from a "grim fate". Martin Meehan, aged 42, of Elmfield Street, Belfast, was jailed for 15 years. He abducted the soldier only 10 months after being released for a similar offence. John Thomas, aged 40, of Stratheden Street, and Kevin McGuigan, aged 26, of Seaford Street, also Belfast, were sentenced to 12 years and 10 years respectively. All three denied abduction and false imprisonment.

Ruling on Paper in Saunders court win

The High Court yesterday ruled that Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, could draw £500 a week in living expenses that had been blocked by the drinks group last month.

Mr Justice Hoffman also gave Mr Saunders, who earned some £175,000 a year when he headed Guinness, access to as much as £200,000 to buy a flat or house.

Mr Saunders is on £500,000 bail awaiting proceedings in connection with the Guinness scandal.

Business news, page 25

Chinatown for food

The Automobile Association's 37 full-time hotel and restaurant inspectors have voted Birmingham's Chinatown as the best value for eating out in the country.

A new AA guide also praises the exceptional bargains offered in set lunchtime menus at London restaurants which charge much higher prices for evening meals.

Best Value Britain (Automobile Association; £4.95).

RUC policy on funerals put to test by killings

By Paul Valley

The violent events of the past week in Northern Ireland have called into question the Royal Ulster Constabulary's policy of low-key policing, introduced barely a week ago.

Senior police officers yesterday, however, privately expressed a reluctance to abandon the new approach immediately.

The decision to drop the old policy of "close quarter policing" was taken after pressure from moderate bodies sympathetic to the republican movement, including respected Roman Catholic churchmen and politicians from the Social and Democratic Labour Party and the Irish Government.

The move was seen as the spogee of the long programme of Sir John Hermon, the Chief Constable, to create a new reputation of fairness and impartiality for the RUC.

Until recently it appeared that Sir John was making headway. The nationalist community had in recent months acknowledged a

discernible improvement in the attitude of the RUC towards it since the introduction of Sir John's new 13-point code of conduct in a document called *Professional Policing Ethics*.

The code was not published but was disseminated throughout the force with some apparent effect. It required not only a more even-handed approach to the two communities but insisted that the police went out of their way to be seen to be fair.

An opinion poll at the end of the year showed that 72 per cent of people throughout the province thought that the RUC did a good job.

The changing attitude within the RUC complemented the improved relations between Dublin and London. Improved consultation, through the Anglo-Irish agreement, on affairs north of the border seemed paralleled by the success of security forces in the South in uncovering IRA arms.

The recent deterioration in Anglo-Irish relations is threatening to take its toll on policing techniques. Relations began to suffer in the wake of the Stalker "shoot to kill" allegations within the RUC during 1982 and the British Government's refusal to prosecute those involved.

Since then, tensions on the streets of West Belfast have worsened in tune with the inter-government disagreement over the new extradition laws, the failure of the Birmingham public house bombing appeal, the permanent renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the fatal shooting of a republican at a British border post, and the early release from jail of an Army private convicted of murdering a civilian in Belfast.

Mistrust between the constabulary and the communities it polices has increased proportionately. In an attempt to halt this continuing deterioration, Sir John decided on a new approach in the funeral of the three IRA bombers shot by the SAS in Gibraltar.

For many months moderate nationalists had been pressing him for what they described as a less provocative police presence at republican funerals.

The chief proponent of the new approach was Bishop Cahal Daly of Connor and Down. His argument was that large numbers of policemen in full riot gear caused more problems than they solved. He referred to the violence which broke out at the funeral of two IRA men, killed by their own bomb, last November when police baton-charged mourners and a coffin was dropped after an illegal volley of shots had been fired over the grave.

The cleric agreed to ensure, in return for low profile from the police, that no paramilitary ceremonies would be allowed during the funeral rites. Sir John was said to have declared the suggestion "eminently sensible".

The day the new low-key policing was introduced, without prior public announcement, was the day that

a lone Protestant gunman threw grenades into the funeral party. Three days later, the two British soldiers were beaten to death at another funeral.

Yesterday senior officers were unhappy at the causal link being made between the violence and the policing policy. "In a sense, these were one-off events. We also had funerals on Thursday and Friday which went off without any violence", one officer said.

Another called for the RUC to allow flexibility in its approach. "I am in favour of the low-key policy so long as I think the law is not going to be breached. Where that seems likely obviously we have to step in but where things seem to be going okay..."

Decisions had to be made on an individual basis, another officer said. Factors to be considered included "the area of the funeral, the status of the deceased, and what public representation had been made".

Smoking game is blamed for fire

By David Saysted

A fire on New Year's Day which killed five people and proved the catalyst for a campaign against the use of polyurethane foam in furniture, was started when two little girls played at smoking, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr David Williams, the East Glamorgan coroner, recorded verdicts of accidental death on the four children and their father who died after choking on fumes from foam-filled furniture in their home in Galon Uchaf, Merthyr Tydfil.

Six other children choked to death in house fires in Britain during the next four days and the Government later bowed to pressure from chief fire officers for a ban on standard and high-resilience polyurethane foams from next February.

The inquest was told that Merthyr Tydfil council was considering placing smoke detectors in all council houses after the deaths.

Only Camille Watkins, aged five, and her mother Yvonne, aged 29, survived the fire. Mr Frederick Watkins, aged 30, and their other children, Shannon, aged six, Hayley, aged three, Danielle, aged two, and Shaun, aged two months, died as Mrs Watkins screamed for help.

The inquest was told that Camille and Hayley had been downstairs during the night trying to light cigarette butts while their parents slept after a New Year's Eve party.

Fire Investigation Officer Robert Roome told the inquest: "The fire was probably accidentally started in the sitting room on the polyurethane foam-filled armchair by either of the little girls".

He said Camille had told him that she and her sister had gone back to bed after the fire started, hiding under the bed clothes.

Compromise hope in ferry dispute

Peace move as a national strike by seamen looms

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs Correspondent

A new attempt to end the seven-week P & O ferry strike will be made this afternoon, 24 hours after leaders of the National Union of Seamen announced it was to ballot its 21,000 members about a national strike.

Union officials and management are going back to the Government conciliation service, Acas, to see if it can resolve the dispute about manning levels on the European ferry services based at Dover.

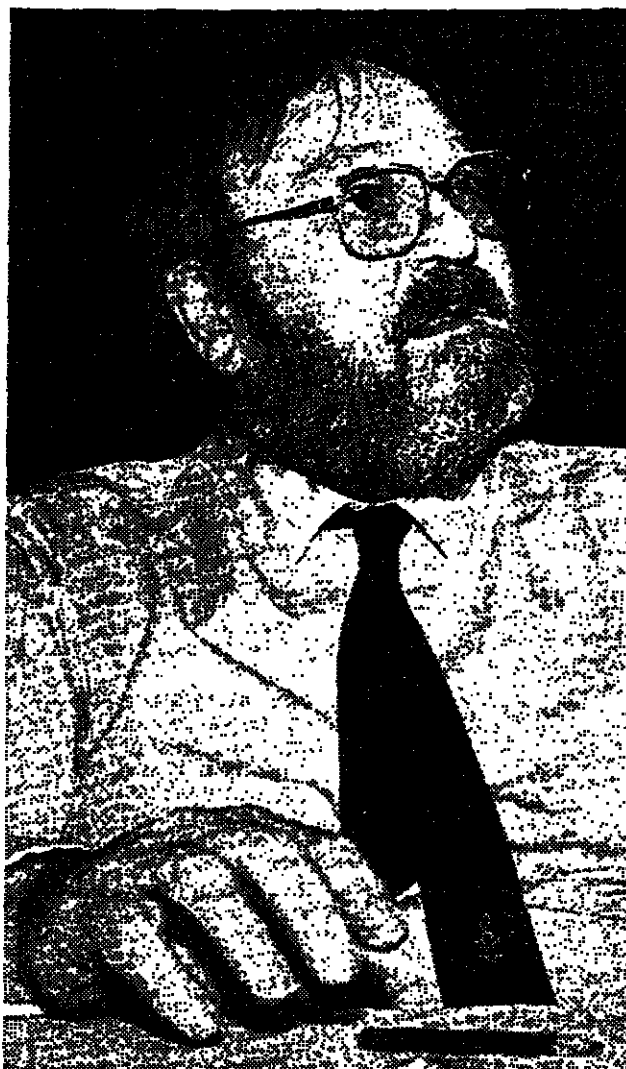
Talks at Acas broke down after four days of negotiations more than a week ago, but Mr Peter Ford, managing director of P & O European Ferries, said he felt a compromise could still be reached.

The unions say that "inflexibility" by the company, which meant the loss of 400 seamen's jobs and longer hours for those who remained, had led to the strike.

P & O has issued dismissal notices to the 2,300 NUS strikers at Dover unless they accept new contracts of service.

But yesterday, the 16-member national executive of the NUS escalated the action by deciding to ballot all its members "to protect jobs and conditions throughout the merchant shipping industry".

A vote in favour of industrial action would almost certainly mean an all-out strike call. The ballot paper will not specify that action is in connection with the Dover dispute to ensure any proposed legal moves by P & O or other shipping companies cannot allege secondary action.



Mr Sam McCluskie, the seamen's leader, in defiant mood yesterday. (Photograph: Deniz McNeelance).

Union leaders said yesterday that the ballot would close tomorrow week which could mean all ferry ports at a standstill for the busy Easter weekend.

Mr Sam McCluskie, the

NUS general secretary, criticized British shipowners for the decline of the industry. He said: "So deep-rooted is this crisis, so cynical the employers' efforts to impose near Third World conditions

on British seafarers, that the NUS executive council has no option other than to ballot all members on whatever industrial action it considers necessary to defend the union's objectives.

"The NUS is determined to remain within the law, even if every attempt to do so results in the threatened sequestration of the union's funds."

Mr McCluskie said his union had been concerned about the decline in the number of jobs available to seamen in the past 15 years, the continuing redundancies and the "persistent imposition of inferior terms and conditions on union members".

He said that according to the General Council of British Shipping there were more than 1,600 merchant ships on the UK register in 1975, compared with only 400 today.

Design changes in cross-Channel and other roll-on roll-off passenger ferries were needed to reduce the "unacceptable" risk of capsizing when they are damaged, the Royal Institution of Naval Architects said yesterday (Rodney Cowton writes).

However, the proposal was criticized by the General Council of British Shipping, representing ferry owners, for oversimplifying the issue and pre-judging the outcome of research on questions of stability.

The institution's call arose as a result of the rapid capsizing of the Herald of Free Enterprise at Zeebrugge last March with the death of 193 people.

The institution is concerned primarily about the risk of capsizing when, as in the case of the Herald of Free Enterprise, a big quantity of water flows into the vehicle deck.

Christian education move is criticized

By Sheila Gann
Political Staff

Compulsory Christian religious education will be a social catastrophe for ethnic communities, Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said yesterday.

He urged the Prime Minister and Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, to reject pressure from right-wingers to strengthen the Education Act 1944 by forcing schools to provide specifically Christian instruction.

It is considered likely that an attempt will be made to bring in compulsory Christian religious instruction while the Bill is in the House of Lords.

As disclosed in *The Times*, the move is expected to be treated sympathetically by Mrs Margaret Thatcher. However it is likely to be opposed by Mr Baker who wants the present policy reinforced under the Bill to prevent upsetting schools with large numbers of children of different religions.

Mr Straw is also pressing the Government to retain its present commitment under the Act which does not specify Christianity.

"It would be a most profound affront to people of all faiths to suggest that we should have exclusively Christian religious education in our schools. We live in a multi-faith society. It would be a social catastrophe if proposals to make compulsory the teaching of Christianity in schools were successful."

The move comes as the House of Commons embarks today on the mammoth task of debating the Education Reform Bill.

The Labour Party yesterday released details of a Conservative Central Office brief on the Bill alleging that they prove the Government fears a backbench revolt.

Telegraph to reduce print jobs

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs Correspondent

Management of *The Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph* have told their 800 print workers that more than a quarter of them are to lose their jobs.

West Ferry Printers, which produces the two newspapers, gave both members of the National Graphical Association and the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades three months formal notice yesterday of changes in manning levels which would mean reduction of 220 in the staff.

Union officials were handed a statement which said there were to be a "series of changes in working arrangements and manning levels" which result in a reduction of the workforce.

Mr Angus Clarke, staff industrial relations director for the company, said the unions would consider the company's proposals.

He said there was no truth in a report that union activists and shop stewards would be selected for redundancy.

The two newspapers moved from Fleet Street to the Isle of Dogs in the London docklands last July.

The unions say they signed a three-year agreement with management in 1985 concerning working arrangements in 1986, and expected it to be honoured.

Last night, printers arriving for work at *The Daily Telegraph* were called to meetings to be told of the management's outline proposals.

The Times This morning: Australia £2.75, Canada £2.75, Germany £2.75, France £2.75, Italy £2.75, Japan £2.75, Spain £2.75, Sweden £2.75, Switzerland £2.75, USA £2.75, Yugoslavia £2.75.

Single-union agreements

EETPU in strike-free deal

By Roland Radd

The electricians' union disclosed yesterday that it had signed a single-union, strike-free agreement only 24 hours before the TUC's general council considers a motion to suspend the union for its role in the News International move to Wapping, east London.

The disclosure of the agreement with Chronor Ltd, of Bridgend, South Wales, is likely to harden union attitudes against the EETPU in the wake of controversy over its single-union agreement with Ford of America.

Mr Wyn Bevan, EETPU executive councillor for Wales, said yesterday his union had "scrupulously adhered to the TUC directives of balloting the workforce and informing the TUC general secretary before signing".

Local authority leaders from Labour-controlled Dundee and Tayside yesterday travelled to London to press on Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, their "united determination" to persuade Ford to change its mind over the cancellation of plans for a £40 million technology plant in the city. Mr Ernest Ross, the Labour MP for Dundee West, said: "We believe the unions have a responsibility to secure this plant for Britain".

Chronor Ltd, part of the Chronor Corporation of the United States, produces solar panels to generate electricity. It opened its Bridgend plant in April 1985 but did not start talks with the EETPU until late last year.

Mr Meurig Sheen, the company's personnel manager, said: "We would not

have negotiated with the electricians if they had not offered us a single union, strike-free clause".

The agreement was signed yesterday by Mr David Bennett, EETPU area official, in the presence of the factory's plant consultative committee.

More than 20 per cent of the employees are former members of the National Union of Mineworkers. In January, the EETPU agreement was backed by 66 per cent of the 90 workers who were eligible to vote, which is below support for other such agreements.

In a statement released last night, Mr Bevan said: "The EETPU's success in signing single-union agreements owes much to its guarantee of industrial stability, continuity of production and the interchangeability and flexibility of working arrangements".

Consumer guide to the good solicitor

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors are expected to besiege bookshops in large numbers this week with the publication of the first comprehensive guide to what are said to be the "top law firms in England, Wales and Scotland".

The book, *The Legal 500*, is the nearest thing yet to a consumers' guide to solicitors. It gives profiles of the firms and outlines what work they do: gives a region-by-region guide to the leading firms in each part of the country and, most controversial, tips the market leaders.

If the problem is crime, then in London Kingsley Napley or Bindmans top the list of recommended firms. In Liverpool, Deacon Goldring Green offers "one of the largest and most efficient" legal aid services in the country and is in an "unprecedented period of growth".

The guide is compiled by John Pritchard, a solicitor and author who has written the *Penguin Guide to the Law*. "In many ways it is a mixture of factual information and personal comment", he said.

The factual data such as the size of

firms, has been supplied by the firms in questionnaires, but he says he has not been able "to resist the temptation to express my own opinions".

In picking out firms well known for particular work, Mr Pritchard says it is almost impossible to single out market leaders in particular areas of work as many firms can do the work competently and well.

However, on the basis of soundings and recommendations made by other solicitors, he picks out at the top of respective lists in London, Macfarlanes and Farrer for private as opposed to company, client work; Joynton-Hicks and Charles Russell Williams and James for family; and Clyde and Co and Ince and Co for maritime.

Barlow Lyde and Gilbert and Robin Thompson are singled out for personal injury work; Freshfields and Slougher and May for tax; Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners and Theodore Goddard for libel; Adlers for franchising and Linklaters and D J Freeman for commercial property.

Among London firms rated to be going

from strength to strength are Clifford Chance and Travers Smith Brithwaite, while in the provinces, the M5 chain, which has five member firms, is the name that crops up most frequently.

Daynes Hill and Pecks in Norwich has an exceptionally large and varied litigation department and sees itself "as a cost-effective and more broadly based alternative to the large City of London firms"; while Booth and Co in Leeds is a "leading commercial practice in the North" which is happy to continue acting for private clients and "perceives its roots as being a family firm".

Then there is Clarke Willmot and Clarke, "one of the major practices in the South-west", offering a "truly comprehensive service", mixing "traditional standards of service with highly efficient business methods".

The guide looks likely to run and run: Mr Pritchard is already preparing for next year's update and says that firms who have not been included and think they should have been should write to him.

The Legal 500 (Legalpress, PO Box 404, London NW6 1JP; £24.95).

Television under attack

BBC play had 'little merit'

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Airbase, the television play about life at a United States Air Force station in Britain, had "little merit" to it, Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC has admitted to a Conservative MP.

In a letter to Sir Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds, he also criticizes an accompanying article in *Radio Times* in which the impression was given that the play was based on fact.

The BBC and the Home Office have been inundated with complaints about the programme which depicted drug-ridden American servicemen who eventually start a world war from their base in Britain.

The play is believed to have used the US Air Force base at

The most radical job and cost cutting package produced by an independent television company will be unveiled by London Weekend Television today in an attempt to guarantee its future.

At least 200 jobs are set to go along with costly working practices and conditions which are aimed at saving millions of pounds a year.

Mr Brian Tester, chairman and managing director, is due to address 1,600 employees during the day before meeting shop stewards from ACTU, the technicians' union.

Lakenheath, Suffolk, which falls into Sir Eldon's constituency, as the backdrop to the drama.

Sir Eldon has condemned the programme, saying it was

EETPU, the electricians' union, and Beta, the studio staff union.

A company source said last night there was a 50-50 chance the proposals could provoke an industrial dispute by the end of the week.

The company has built up a secret stockpile of programmes so that it could continue broadcasting in the face of a strike.

Mr Bruce Gynell, managing director of strike-affected TV-am, has been admitted to hospital for tests after being taken ill over the weekend.

designed to try and damage the US and the idea of the Nato deterrent.

Mr Hussey told Sir Eldon: "In common with many here I found little merit in it".

He added: "It is the view of my colleagues that the article in the *Radio Times* by Francis Whelan linked to the play was an error of judgement. I strongly support that view."

"This features mixed fiction and fact in a way that might have been misleading to the reader."

The article was "entirely inappropriate" for the BBC programme journal and an inquiry was underway.

However, Sir Eldon is not satisfied by the response from the BBC chairman.

"It was a very half-hearted explanation of the BBC's error and will not suffice", he said.

"I have had to go back to Mr Hussey in order to ask him to do better and apologise to some fine young men who have been maliciously insulted and have no means of answering back."

Chernobyl curbs will remain

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Contamination of upland pastures in Britain by fall-out from the 1986 Chernobyl disaster has fallen markedly in the past year, but not far enough for restrictions on the movement and slaughter of sheep to be lifted in the foreseeable future.

The Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday that experiments at Bristol University on vegetation samples taken from Cumbria indicated a drop in overall caesium levels of about 20 per cent.

However, while that was encouraging, the decline was not necessarily uniform throughout the area. Some sheep were likely to be feeding on grass contaminated above the ministry's stipulated limit and, on open unfenced moorland, it was not possible to draw rigid geographical distinctions.

The ministry would be

carrying out further research aimed at identifying more precisely the most important sources of contamination, but in the meantime present controls would continue.

A similar notice has been issued by the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland offices.

At the last count Wales had some 300,000 sheep and lambs on 416 farms still affected by the restrictions.

That compares with some two million sheep on 5,100 holdings when the restrictions were imposed in June 1986.

In Cumbria about 100,000 sheep on 150 farms are still under restriction; in Scotland 60,000 sheep on 60 farms; and in Northern Ireland 77,000 sheep on 122 farms. By the end of last month some £5,277,000 had been paid in compensation.

Ministry officials said yesterday that there was no way

of telling whether the past 12 months' decline would set a precedent for coming years, though experience with fall-out from weapons trials and from the 1957 Windscale (Sellafield) accident suggested that radio-caesium gradually became bound up in the soil to the point where it was no longer assimilated by vegetation.

There were special problems on thin, peaty, upland soils, especially with lichens and mosses.

The Government intended to introduce a "sensitised" scheme, whereby farmers would be compensated for taking land out of production to reduce surpluses, by the start of the next autumn planting season, Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday.

The European Commission had set a deadline of July 1.

Public
killed
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Lessons in
loving care
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Study in
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Police

Public school pupil 'killed and buried boy accused of rape'

A public school pupil stabbed a fellow boarder and cut his throat after his girl friend accused the boy of rape, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Mr James Crespi, QC, for the prosecution, said the body was found buried in a field a month later. It was a "melancholy case" involving two boys and a girl they both loved, who were all boarders at Dover College, Kent.

Andrew Richens, aged 18, of Borough Green Road, Ighiteam, near Sevenoaks, Kent, was charged with murdering Wai Lim Choi, aged 17, at a flat at Ashdown Way, Balham, south-west London, between December 1 and December 3, 1986.

The court was told that weeks before the killing, Mr Richens had been withdrawn from the school. His girl friend, Miss Sabrina Gniau, had been upset and was given leave of absence.

Mr Crespi said Mr Choi's parents lived in Hong Kong and when he was in England he was allowed to use a flat at Ashdown Way which belonged to an aunt.

After Mr Richens had left the school, Miss Gniau had spent a night at the flat with Mr Choi and another pupil, Edmund Wong.

Mr Crespi said Mr Wong would say that during the evening Mr Choi was drinking quite a lot of whisky and Miss Gniau was smoking what appeared to be cannabis.

She had gone to bed by herself in the bedroom, which had two beds, and Edmund Wong prepared to sleep in the living room.

During the night, he had heard Miss Gniau screaming and shouting for him. Mr Wong would say that she was telling Mr Choi to get out. She alleged she had been raped by Mr Choi, although no complaint was made to the police.

The next day, Miss Gniau had telephoned Mr Richens and told him that Mr Choi had raped her, Mr Crespi said.

When Mr Choi disappeared, his father and an uncle had visited Mr Richens after hearing of an incident between Mr Choi and the girl.

Mr Crespi said Mr Richens and Miss Gniau continued to stay at the flat until December 3 when they moved to a flat at Park Mansions, Knightsbridge, west London, which belonged to a friend.

The Balham flat was examined by the police and a forensic scientist on December 23 and 24. Blood belonging to the same group as Mr Choi's was found on the bedroom carpet, the walls and on a door frame.

The police learnt later that Mr Richens had brought a trunk from a shop in Tooting Bec, south London, early in December. It was alleged that the trunk had been used by Mr Richens to take Mr Choi's body to Ighiteam.

Mr Crespi said Mr Richens was arrested on December 30 on suspicion of assaulting Mr Choi. In an interview at Earlsfield police station, south London, on January 1 last, year he had allegedly said that Mr Choi was buried "in a field behind my house".

Mr Crespi said Mr Richens had admitted killing Mr Choi

on December 1 at the Balham flat, and had said that nobody had helped him.

The court was told that the body of Mr Choi, which was wrapped in cellophane and a duvet, was found below a patch of freshly-dug grass. A pathologist had said death was due to stab wounds and Mr Choi's throat had been cut. Considerable force had been used.

In a subsequent interview, Mr Richens allegedly said he had obtained a sheath knife for protection against Mr Choi but he had not intended to use it against anyone.

He allegedly said that on the night of December 1, Mr Choi arrived at the Balham flat and began to talk about the night when the alleged rape took place. Mr Choi said he had smoked a lot of hashish and had drunk quite a lot.

Mr Crespi alleged that when Mr Choi said Miss Gniau had "wanted it", Mr Richens became enraged and began stabbing Mr Choi with the knife.

Mr Richens allegedly said: "I dragged him into the bathroom and put him into the bath. I stabbed the knife into his throat and through his windpipe."

Miss Angela Dixon, a former pupil at Dover College, told the court that Mr Richens was a karate expert and one of the most popular boys at the school. When he was ordered to leave the school early by the headmaster, she had collected 200 signatures on a petition and arranged a pupils' strike in his support.

The trial continues today.

Peer's kidnap ordeal in car boot



A policeman stands guard at Tyntesfield Court where Lord Warrall (left) was abducted by raiders and locked in the boot of his car, which was found (right) seven hours later by the gamekeeper's son in a wood two miles away.

By Ruth Gledhill

Lord Warrall, Baron of Clyst St George and a grandson of Queen Mary, emerged blood-stained after almost seven hours locked in the boot of his BMW yesterday to say: "Good grief, there's more room in the back than I ever thought."

Lord Warrall's ordeal began when he returned to his home, Tyntesfield Court, Warrall, near Bristol, from a dinner party at 1am yesterday. The 60-year-old former Coldstream Guards officer — family motto, Tenax Propositi, Stick to One's Gums — was pounced upon by three men as he walked from his car to the door of his 43-bedroom Gothic mansion.

They knocked him to the ground, one battering him on the head with a plank, and demanded the combination to

his safe and his house keys. Two of the men pinned him to the ground while the third entered the house.

But the burglar alarm went off and, in a panic, the raiders bundled Lord Warrall into the boot of his BMW and drove him to woods about two miles away, before making off with his wallet and credit cards.

Meanwhile, the burglar alarm had alerted the police. A patrol car went to the house, but found nothing amiss and left.

Lord Warrall struggled to escape from the boot using a screwdriver he found in it. For ventilation, he kicked out the car's rear lights.

At 8.30am the car was seen by his gamekeeper's son, Matthew Hitchens, aged 20, who heard muffled banging from inside the boot and ran to tell

his father. Lord Warrall had been reported missing when the gardener and estate manager arrived for work to find the car missing and spots of blood on the courtyard.

Mr Chris Hitchens, the gamekeeper, said: "My son told me there was a red BMW parked in the woods and there was someone banging from inside. I rang the police who told me his lordship had already been reported missing. I rushed to the spot and when I got there I shouted out who I was. I immediately recognized Lord Warrall's voice — he was shouting 'Hello'."

"He had already managed to undo part of the boot lid so I passed a wrench through to him and between us we got him out."

The gamekeeper said: "He was quite bloody about the

face but in good spirits, although shocked and very stiff. By the time I got there he was just relieved and thankful to get out."

The gamekeeper's son, a shop assistant, said: "He's a thorough English gent and kept a stiff upper lip even in these circumstances. I feel a bit guilty because when I first heard the knocking from the boot I didn't do anything. I didn't know what would jump out if I opened it. His lordship is not the sort of person to go down without a fight. It looked as if there had been a fair struggle."

Insp Graham Cawley, of Avon and Somerset Police, said: "We received a call from the burglar alarm company. Officers made a search of the property but nothing untoward was found at that time."

Lawyers press for more open justice

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A change in High Court rules to bring into open court hundreds of hearings heard in secret has won considerable backing from a group of senior judges and lawyers.

The judges and lawyers, members of the Supreme Court Procedure Committee, which advises the Lord Chancellor on reforms, agreed last week that such a change should be studied.

Whether preliminary pre-trial hearings are heard in open court or in chambers depends largely on what division of the High Court they are started in.

The hearings, between 50 and 100 a day and many on issues of public interest, are heard by a judge in

chambers in the Queen's Bench Division but in open court in the Chancery Division.

Lord Justice Neill, chairman of the Supreme Court Procedure Committee, said no decision had yet been reached on whether there should be a change. However, the committee had agreed to refer the issue back for detailed examination to the Chancery and Queen's Bench subcommittees.

A number of senior judges favour some reform of the rules and last year the General Council of the Bar said there was a strong case for change.

The Government has indicated it is considering granting a right of challenge

to judicial decisions to hold court proceedings in camera.

In response to an amendment tabled by the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCCL) to the Criminal Justice Bill, the Government has said it will come forward with its own proposals.

The council's proposals would extend judicial review proceedings to hearings held in camera. The Government is already proposing to give a right of challenge to orders made under the Contempt of Court Act which ban or postpone press reports.

The NCCCL and newspaper editors want this right of challenge extended to proceedings in camera.

Lessons in loving care sought

By Ruth Gledhill

Children should be taught at school how to have successful relationships with the opposite sex and how to become better parents, a children's charity said yesterday.

Dr Alan Gilmour, director of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has written to Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, asking him to place parenthood on the core curriculum for schools in the new Education Reform Bill.

Announcing the NSPCC report, to be presented at the annual meeting in London today, Dr Gilmour said: "There is a staggering amount of ignorance about how to bring up children and have relationships."

"We find more and more people who are unable to cope with ordinary problems or parenthood, whether it is feeding, clothing or looking after their intellectual and spiritual needs."

Rugby 'the most dangerous sport'

A leading specialist in spinal injuries told the High Court yesterday that rugby was the most dangerous sport being played in schools in terms of death, disability and injuries.

Dr John Silver, a consultant at the National Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, said he had been horrified at seeing so many boys left paralysed by rugby injuries.

He was giving evidence on the sixth day of a claim by Simon Van Oppen, aged 23, who holds his former school to blame for a spinal injury he suffered when a tackle went wrong.

Dr Silver told Mr Justice Boreham he was "passionately fond of the game", but "I would regard rugby as the most dangerous sport or activity taking place in schools".

Since beginning research into the problem he had seen and treated about 85 patients with serious spinal injuries from rugby compared with just three football players.

"When you consider there

are maybe half a million rugby players and two to three million soccer players I think the figures speak for themselves", he said.

In the 1960s and 1970s broken necks and paralysis from rugby injuries were frequent and caused a peak in the early 1980s. Numbers began to decline but they have not continued to do so.

He said that the particular risks to school boys had been recognized for 10 years, and he had been a prime mover in the call for all school boy players to be insured.

Mr Van Oppen, of Drakes Cottage, Monmouth Hill, Topham, Exeter, Devon, alleges that Bedford School is liable for the injury he suffered while tackling during an inter-house game in 1980. The school denies liability.

Mr Christopher Wilson-Smith, QC, for Mr Van Oppen, has claimed that Bedford was "reluctantly dragged" into providing insurance cover for its rugby players after the accident.

The hearing continues today.

Study into Asian heart death risk

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Research has been launched into discovering why Asians living in Britain have a higher death rate from heart disease than the white population. Two projects, costing a total of £125,000, were announced by the British Heart Foundation yesterday.

The extra risk to Asians does not seem to be due to differences in blood pressure, smoking or levels of cholesterol.

Asians are also known to have a higher frequency of one type of diabetes, and the biochemical changes linked to this vulnerability may help to explain the high rate of heart disease.

The diet and health of 3,000 London men, half of them Asians, will be studied by Professor Michael Marmot and Dr Paul McKeigue, researchers at the University

College and Middlesex School of Medicine, London.

The results will be analysed in the hope of finding out the importance of diabetes as a factor in heart disease, particularly the part played by raised amounts of the hormone insulin in the blood of many Asians.

The second project will involve screening 1,000 Asians and 1,000 non-Asians in west London with genetic differences between them being studied by Professor Marmot and Dr Steve Humphries, of the Charing Cross Sunley Research Centre.

Another grant, worth £57,500, has been awarded to researchers at Dundee University to study the diet of 12,000 people in Scotland, which has one of the world's worst death rates from heart disease.

King's Cross inquiry Platforms 'were not staffed'

By Tony Dawe

Many platforms and escalators were totally unstaffed at King's Cross for an hour before the fire that claimed 31 lives, the inquiry was told yesterday.

Mr Charles Pugh, representing the relatives of the victims, questioned Mr Joseph Worrell, the Underground station manager, about staff training and work procedures.

Mr Pugh said that the Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria Line platforms and their escalators were "totally unstaffed for upwards of an hour up until the fire".

He said that a pattern emerged, once the rush hour was over, of some staff going home early, others not coming to work, and some taking unauthorized meal breaks and others going into the mess room for tea.

Mr Worrell said that staff

would be "relieved that the peak is over" and since railmen could not get a cup of tea on the platforms they would go to the mess room. He had no knowledge of them taking extended meal breaks.

Mr Worrell said he was not surprised that his staff had no training in the use of fire hydrants or water sprinklers and in evacuation procedures. He believed they could cope with minor incidents but their training "was not adequate for a major fire".

He said that the four supervisors and nine railmen on duty were inadequate to cope with an emergency and that the operations room could not monitor much of the station.

The evidence given by Mr Worrell about the availability of plans to the Underground

was criticized, although he insisted it was the truth.

Mr John Drinkwater, QC, representing the London Fire Brigade, said: "If this witness is to be believed, it makes a nonsense of the evidence of several other witnesses."

He challenged Mr Worrell's claims at last Friday's hearing that plans of the station, normally stored in a locker, were unavailable at the time of the fire because the locker had been vandalized.

Mr Drinkwater produced photographs of an undamaged locker, statements from fire officers and the fire-damaged plans.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the inquiry, said further investigation would be made into the locker's state.

The inquiry continues today.

Specialist denies side effects

A slimming specialist who is accused of professional misconduct told the General Medical Council yesterday that it was impossible for his patients to have experienced side effects using his methods.

Dr Sidney Gee, aged 67, who has practices in Harley Street, central London, and Rochester, Kent, said there could be no serious side effects from drugs used to curb appetite and reduce metabolic rate because the prescribed amounts were well below those the medical profession considered normal.

Dr Gee, whose slimming treatments were criticized on the BBC television programme, *That's Life*, said he based treatment for obesity on diet, exercise and drugs.

He told the council's disciplinary committee in London that the treatment varied. Normally, he prescribed amphetamines in 5mg doses each evening to curb appetite.

"The amount of 5mg is without any danger of side effects. There is no literature in the world that uses as low an amount as I do. There is no possibility of dependence. None of my patients had more than 5mg once a day of amphetamine", he said.

Dr Gee is accused of misconduct between June 1982 and July 1983 by supplying quantities of drugs without first adequately examining patients or obtaining information on their medical histories.

He is also accused of failing to consult with general practitioners after starting treatment and giving details of drugs supplied without checking effects or giving advice when patients reported harmful effects.

The hearing continues.

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NSPCC

To protect the child's identity the face has been changed.

Two schemes are being considered to reform Scotland Yard's arts and antiques squad as thefts from galleries, museums and churches continue to soar.

The squad was stood down in 1984 by the then Metropolitan Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, but the Yard's policy committee is to decide whether it can be reborn as a national team funded directly by the Home Office.

Another idea is to privatize the now tiny department which still has tens of thousands of stolen items on its computer.

There are precedents for the first scheme, which would involve having a squad manned by specialist detectives

from forces throughout the country.

The National Identification Bureau (which embraces finger printing and criminal records) as well as the Drugs Intelligence Unit are run on national lines and paid for by the Home Office.

If the second scheme was to be chosen, the manning and operating costs would be paid by auctioneers, dealers, collectors and insurance companies.

One of the companies which has already gone into detailed planning and is confident it could handle the project is Control Risks, of which Sir Kenneth Newman is a non-executive director.

Control Risks has experience of protecting works of art and has strong

international connections in that field. It has its own investigative team.

Mr Derek Reed, a director of the company, said: "We feel confident that we could handle such a project and know that we would be able to help, rather than interfere with, police investigations."

Mr Colin Reeve, chief security officer for Christie's and a former Metropolitan detective chief superintendent, said: "In my opinion it is absolutely essential to reintroduce a specialist squad."

"Italy has an 80-man team; France has 30 on its squad. Scotland Yard has one officer and a civilian assistant. Five forces — Sussex, Thames Valley, Kent, Bristol and Hampshire all have

small but useful arts and antiques squads. Between them they report 100 items of stolen art to me every month."

"I would estimate that every month between 3,000 and 5,000 works of art are disappearing in this country. I have offered to help in the training of any new squad."

Mr Ivor Turnbull, editor of the *Antiques Trade Gazette*, which keeps abreast of current thefts and publishes descriptions of stolen treasures, says: "The disbanding of the arts and antiques squad is still a rather sore point with us."

"There is no doubt that there is a growing need for a national, comprehensive register of stolen art treasures."

Police likely to revive art theft squad

Search for stolen treasures

March 21 1988

PARLIAMENT

King orders review of funeral policing

The Chief Constable of Northern Ireland (Sir John Hermon) is undertaking an urgent review of the policing of future IRA funerals, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in his statement to the Commons.

A huge murder investigation was under way to identify all those responsible for the murders of the two soldiers during Saturday's funeral in west Belfast and a new freemasonry number is to be introduced to encourage witnesses to come forward with confidential information to support the fight against terrorism.

In his statement, Mr King set out the background to Saturday's killings, including the attack by a "loyalist" gunman on the funeral of the three IRA terrorists killed in Gibraltar.

On Thursday there had been the funeral of the IRA gunman shot by the Army on Monday and on Friday there had been the funeral of Charles McMillan, a Roman Catholic with no paramilitary connections, shot by the UFF, and of Mr Thomas McEneaney, one of the three killed at Milltown Cemetery. All of these had taken place peacefully and without any breach in the law.

On Saturday, the funerals of the other two killed at Milltown Cemetery took place, first that of John Murray and second that of Kevin Brady, who was acknowledged by the Provisional IRA to be one of

its members. It was at this funeral that the horrific events took place that have so shocked the world.

After the funeral service at St Agnes's Church, the cortege had moved off along Andersonstown Road towards Milltown Cemetery. "At that point, a civilian car attempted to reverse away from the funeral cortege. Despite the television coverage of the subsequent events, it remains unclear how the car came to be in that position and for how long it had been on that road."

It was blocked by taxis accompanying the funeral. "What immediately followed is a matter of sickening visual record."

Some of those in the funeral cortege had set upon the car with the obvious intention of pulling out the two occupants. The driver had least out and fired one shot into the air, but, after only a moment's pause, the crowd resumed their onslaught, some smashing at it with iron bars. They eventually succeeded in hauling out both occupants.

"Both men were then dragged by the crowd into an adjacent stadium, the gates were closed and it appears that a smaller group of attackers continued to assault them, stripped them and searched their clothing. Subsequently they threw them over a wall, and then bundled them into a black taxi which took them to a near by piece of wasteland, where they were shot."

It had emerged later that the two victims were corporals in the Royal Corps of Signals — Corporal Wood and Corporal Howes — who had shortly before left a joint police and army base in North Howard Street Mill after completing a routine maintenance task, to return to their unit at Lisburn.

"They had no reason to be in the vicinity of the funeral. This is not an approved route for soldiers who are not on operational duty at the time, and there is absolutely no question of their being involved in any way with surveillance or any other duties connected with the funeral. I am therefore unable to tell the House with any certainty why they were there."

"If the most likely explanation is that they decided to take the shortest route back to their base, without appreciating the presence of the funeral, this can only be conjecture and it will probably never be known why they were there. Whatever the reason, however, nothing can conceivably justify the utterly appalling outrage that then occurred and which resulted in their deaths."

Mr King extended his utmost sympathy to the families, even more so in view of the awful television pictures of the occasion. "Nor has it gone unnoticed — and rightly so — that, although they both had loaded personal protection pistols, they showed

incredible restraint in only using them to fire a warning shot in the air."

The first and immediate objective was to bring to justice those responsible. A man would shortly be charged with the murders at Milltown Cemetery and a number of other serious offences. Two men were already in custody in respect of the killing of the soldiers. "In addition, a massive murder investigation is under way, on which all possible resources are involved, to identify all those responsible."

Large funerals and processions were the most difficult events faced by the security forces and they had been unscrupulously used by paramilitaries for propaganda purposes.

A prime consideration of the chief constable in determining the most appropriate method of policing was that they should be conducted within the law and without paramilitary display. He would also have regard to the degree to which other elements would seek deliberately to exploit the presence of the police to provoke violence and disorder.

"There have been suggestions made that the arrangements for the funeral were the consequence of a political directive and that there had been interference with the operational independent responsibility of the chief constable. This is quite false."

"The chief constable has asked me to make quite clear that he takes full

responsibility for the arrangements for the funeral, that these were policing decisions, taken after the most careful assessment of all the relevant circumstances.

"I would emphasize that I fully support the decisions that he took in these matters, and in which the initial outcome had clearly been successful. However, clearly the two incidents that subsequently occurred were wholly unacceptable and do require immediate review in regard to policing to be followed at any future funeral."

The chief constable has informed me this morning that he is carrying this through as a matter of urgency."

Sir John would carry through the difficult task with professionalism and sensitivity.

Faced with the appalling violence of recent weeks, including the murder of another police constable in Londonderry today, Mr King repeated his words of last Thursday, on the desperate need to break the awful cycle of violence and retaliation, which was causing nothing but more misery for all.

To help the community to support the fight against terrorism, the confidential telephone system was to be improved, with the introduction of a single and easily memorized freemasonry number usable right across the province. "I have asked the broadcasting authorities to publicize this number and they have readily agreed."

The fight against terrorism raised major challenges for the Government of the Republic of Ireland. "A significant number of steps have been taken to help improve cross-border co-operation, and we particularly appreciate the amount of weapons and explosives that have already been recovered by the Garda. We have to keep working to improve this co-operation in our common interest to defeat terrorism."

He had agreed with Mr Brian Lemlin, the Irish Foreign Minister, that there would be a meeting of the inter-governmental security co-operation committee. As well as ministers, Sir John Hermon and the Commissioner of the Garda would attend the meeting.

"The common phrase this weekend is that the trouble of Northern Ireland has plunged new depths of horror. That was the phrase at Milltown Cemetery, now the phrase at Andersonstown Road on Saturday. And the truth is that there will be new depths again, so long as this awful and violent campaign of terrorism and revenge continues."

"It has got to stop, in the name of humanity, and if there is to be any decent future for the people of Northern Ireland, for all those living in the island of Ireland and if the evil shroud of terrorism is to be lifted from the United Kingdom as a whole."

Security forces were not prevented from intervening

The security forces had not been prevented by orders from intervening to help the corporals who were murdered on Saturday, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, made clear in answer to questions.

He said that the two men had not been prevented by orders from intervening from opening fire in defence of their own or other people's lives.

Mr Kevin McNamara, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that in the past four days Mr King had had the melancholy task of reporting five deaths at funerals, the last two having been each case by a beastial pack that had trapped its quarry.

The most important thing was for the House not to allow justified and righteous anger to overcome reasoned judgement. If it did, the men of violence would have won.

Last Thursday the Opposition had supported the chief constable's attitude to the policing of Wednesday's funeral. He had taken a similar decision on Friday at successive funerals.

"We thought he was right then. We think he is right now. He must decide how best to police events in emotionally charged areas. That is sensitive policing, that is not soft policing. He must take each case as it comes on its merits."

The Opposition welcomed the review. They recognized the chief constable's integrity and that he would do what was best for the rule of law and the families.

Was the Army informed about policing practice at the funerals by the RUC? What were the procedures for liaison between the Army and the RUC? What instructions had been given to the two corporals about their route and had they been briefed about the funerals?

Clearly many more than two

N IRELAND

people had been involved in Saturday's killing, were the two to be charged and were further arrests expected?

"It has been suggested that the security forces were prevented by orders from seeking to protect the soldiers, the mere suggestion of which I find completely reprehensible."

What role was played by the helicopter in calling assistance?

The Opposition welcomed the announcement of an inter-governmental conference later this week. It was preferable to suggestions of an early meeting between Mrs Thatcher and the Taoiseach. "Gesture politics of a summit nature would not be appropriate at the present time."

Mrs Thatcher should start once again to play a more active part in Irish affairs. In the past six months horrifying events and misunderstandings had occurred.

The Prime Minister should resume the interest which led to the signing of the agreement. This would be essential in the period leading up to its re-examination.

Community leaders in Northern Ireland must come together with good will.

The vacuum in constitutional politics had been replaced by a surfeit of violence. It was time to remove the political leaders from both communities to find an antidote to the violence. All the Government could do, and the Opposition would help it to do it, was to maintain a position in which the political leaders could come together to talk.

If Mr King took that course he would have the support of men and women of good will. He would have Opposition support to maintain the rule of law against the law of the jungle.

Mr King said that he was grateful for Mr McNamara's closing remarks. He noted his

support for the policing decision being right at the time, but clearly one which should be re-examined. There was close liaison between the police and the Army.

The soldiers knew of tensions associated with the funerals. The routes they had taken were not approved at any time for soldiers not on operational duty in the area.

There was no truth whatsoever in the suggestions that the security forces had been prevented from intervening. There was a gross clumsy on the operational intelligence of the chief constable and the integrity of senior officers for which there was no justification.

All the police knew at the time was from the helicopter. They did not have access to the television film inside the cameras which everyone had seen since. Initially it had taken a little time to clarify what was taking place. As far as the police knew, there were no soldiers in the area. It might have been a further attempted bomb attack on the funeral.

"As soon as it became clear that the matter was very much more serious, the police acted and I think they acted with considerable determination."

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the OUP, asked whether, in fairness to the two corporals, Mr King would accept that the route they had chosen was the direct one to army headquarters at Lisburn.

The alternative had been a no-go area to all army personnel for years. That was the extension of the M1 motorway.

Had the two corporals been informed of the fact that that motorway extension was out of bounds to them? Were they directed to use a route not previously used by military personnel?

Would he now explain precisely how the "stand-off" decision had been taken and what wider consideration and discussion preceded the chief constable's directive?



Stephen Oliver (centre), the opera composer, with Harry Rabinowitz, the composer-conductor, and Annie Gunning, the author and studio head, at yesterday's meeting at the Commons (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Composers in new call for levy

By Andrew Billen

Composers launched a further attempt yesterday to restore to the Copyright Bill the Government's former commitment to introduce a blank-tape levy to compensate for home recording of music from radio and records.

The Music Copyright Reform Group, which represents the owners of music copyright, hopes that before the Bill leaves the Lords next week, Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will announce that he is looking at the matter again.

At a meeting of the group held in the

Jubilee Room at the House of Commons, Mr Roger Greenaway, a pop song writer and composer, accused the Government of conniving in the piracy of his work. He said: "I would like to ask the Government: Why are you tacitly supporting the theft of my intellectual property when you are the party of law and order?"

In a White Paper on Copyright in 1986, the Government concluded that copyright owners and performers should be remunerated for home taping by means of a compulsory levy and that, after its introduction, home taping should become legal.

When the Copyright, Design and Patents

Bill was published in November, however, the proposal had been dropped on the grounds that costly new bureaucracy would have been created that not everyone used blank tapes to record music; and that the levy could have been used as an excuse to raise prices.

Lord Young has more recently told the lobby that, although a levy was still not acceptable as a solution to enforcing the law against home-taping, the arguments were finely balanced.

If the Bill is not amended before going to the Commons after Easter, attention will switch to its committee stage.

The route is not a no-go area. There are no-go areas in Northern Ireland. There is a difference between routes that soldiers or the security forces use when on operational duty and those which they use when they are not.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) said that the two corporals had been murdered in barbaric circumstances.

The feeling in west Belfast last week had been such that, had the security forces mounted their normal operations at the funerals, the violence would have been even more serious and there would have been many more deaths.

"In the circumstances, in my

view, the police and Army took a proper decision and I support them (cheers). These events underline for every person the desperate futility of killing human beings in order to unite them."

Mr King said that the reason he had been particularly concerned about what Mr Molyneux had said was that he had a part to play in leadership.

"I hope that both he and Mr Hume will show total support for the fight against violence."

Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast East, DUP): Can Mr King indicate what a great contribution to the fact that the two soldiers were killed was that they restrained themselves from opening fire?

Campaign of arson attacked

The arson campaign against holiday homes in Wales was doing irreparable harm to tourism and to the country's reputation for hospitality, Mr Wyn Roberts, Minister of State for Wales, said at question time.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C) asked the minister to discuss the arson campaign with the chairman of the Welsh Tourist Board. His party deplored and condemned the campaign.

Mr Roberts said that he was glad to hear the condemnation of the campaign. Conservatives joined in that condemnation. This was a matter for the Home Office not the Welsh Tourist Board.

Christian education

The popularity of de-sectarian schools underlined the desire of parents for religious education based upon the Scriptures, Mr John Marshall (Hendon South, C) said during Commons questions.

He asked Mr Michael Alison, Second Church Estates Commissioner, if he was happy about the role of religious education in the Education Reform Bill.

Mr Alison said that he was delighted that the Bill retained the compulsory provision of the 1944 Act for religious education and said that the Bill introduced a new compulsory procedure for the supervision of instruction.

He agreed that parents wanted religious education, almost universally. "They want it to be predominantly Christian and scriptural."

GCSE exam defended

Many leading educationists in Wales are worried about the plight of 16-year-old students faced with the new GCSE examination, Mr Gerald Howells (Ceredigion and North Pembroke) said during question time. The educationists said that many students were under stress and over-worked.

Mr Wyn Roberts, Minister of State, Welsh Office, had said that an interim report by the schools inspectorate (HMI) on March 8 had found that the new examination was being successfully introduced. "It is leading to better teaching and has succeeded in raising the motivation of pupils."

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Questions: Defence; Prime Minister; Education Reform Bill, report, first day.
Lords (2.30): Local Government Bill (Commons amendments); Immigration Bill, committee, second day.

Government 'threatening family life'

The Government came under attack from bishops and Opposition peers in the Lords for threatening family life by its proposal to take away the automatic right of immigrant men to bring their families to Britain.

Opposition centred on the Government's intention in the Immigration Bill of a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights.

The court found that the present immigration law was discriminatory because it app-

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lied only to the right of immigrant men to be joined by their families and not to women. Under the Bill, the Government proposes to remove the rights from men as well as women.

A cross-party amendment to the committee stage to extend the right to both sexes was defeated by 120 votes to 95 — Government majority, 25.

Supporting the amendment,

the Bishop of Ripon, Dr David Young, said that the Government's proposal made it more difficult for certain families to be united and so was another threat to the family life of those settled in Britain.

Lord Mishcon, an Opposition home affairs spokesman, said that the proposal broke the pledge given by Mr Reginald Maudling when Home Secretary that immigrants would be allowed to bring in their dependants.

The Bishop of Manchester,

Dr Stanley Booth-Clibborn, urged the Government to consider the effects of the Bill.

He found it hard to understand the Government did not interpret the ruling by removing the discrimination and giving wives the same rights.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the proposal would not break up families. It meant that people who had been in the country for a long time would be able to support their dependants without relying on public funds.

Aids deaths reporting system has ministers' full confidence

The Government has every confidence in the existing voluntary system of reporting Aids deaths, even though it accepts that not all are reported, Mr Ian Grist, Under Secretary of State for Wales, said during questions.

At the end of February, 19 people in Wales with Aids had been reported to the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, of whom 15 had died. A year earlier there had been 11 cases and 9 deaths.

Sir Raymond Gower (Vale of Glamorgan, C) said that recent studies undertaken in the

United States suggested that the ultimate number of people with the disease would be far greater than anticipated. He asked whether there was to be any further investigations to meet such possibilities.

Mr Grist said that he had noted the studies, but had every confidence in the existing voluntary system of reporting Aids deaths. However, not all deaths were reported, and HIV-related deaths could occur that did not fall within the clinical definition of Aids.

Mr Alan Williams, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales,

said that Aids was the greatest threat to human health this century. Its rate was doubling every 12 months and, projecting that figure over 10 years, it would represent a very big threat to the Welsh people.

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr Peter Walker) should use his voice in the Cabinet to increase massively the resources devoted to research and public education.

Mr Grist said that a big education programme was already taking place through schools, local authorities and elsewhere.

Alton Bill's fate hangs on who best knows the ropes

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Mr David Alton, sponsor of the bitterly contested anti-abortion Bill, begins tomorrow the next parliamentary stage of his attempt to get controversial private member's legislation on to the statute book without Government support.

The Bill, for which Mr Alton secured a majority of 45 at its second reading in January, enters its committee stage where he and his opponents will continue a ferocious battle whose eventual outcome may be decided not on the arguments, but by which side has the superior mastery of parliamentary procedure.

Since Mr David Steel introduced his abortion Bill in 1967 there have been 15 attempts to tighten its provisions. All have failed through their opponents' use of procedural devices, although Mr Alton claims there has always been a Commons majority in favour.

Mr Alton, however, is a former Liberal Chief Whip with an expert knowledge of Westminster's arcane ways. He re-



Mr Wakeham (left), who found 160 Christians praying for him, and Mr Alton, the Bill's author

signed the job to concentrate exclusively on his Bill to reduce the legal abortion deadline from 28 to 18 weeks into pregnancy.

He has planned every stage of the parliamentary process in meticulous detail and gives himself a 50-50 chance of success.

Simultaneously he has mounted a campaign to mo-

bilize public support throughout the country. That has had two purposes. One is to put constituency pressure on MPs to support the Bill.

The other is to generate such public interest in the issue that there would be an outcry if the Bill was lost, not on the arguments, but through parliamentary skulduggery. It has led to

Mr Alton's supporters have taken full page advertisements in national newspapers, have printed a million copies of postcards showing an 18-week fetus, and conducted nationwide opinion polls to measure shifts in public sentiment and organized huge lobbies, petitions and vigils.

They are shortly to release a record of a song written by a leading rock musician to dis-

suade his own daughter from having an abortion.

At one point Mr Alton was reprimanded by the Speaker for having the existing name of the Bill, "The Abortion (Amendment) Bill", changed to "The Abortion (Prohibition) Bill".

Mr Alton was nearly outwitted. Two such Bills were slipped in before he realized what was happening.

As it was, Mr Harry Cohen, Labour MP for Leyton, ensured that the Bill was not delayed by a single day. The bill lasted for three or four weeks before he was "named" in the Commons for misconduct during an entirely unrelated debate. During his ensuing suspension the Bill went through.

The Licensing (Retail Sales) Bill, whose 18 committee of 18 was packed with 14 opponents

of the Alton Bill, lasted a similar time.

Mr Alton has got his Bill into committee stage with sufficient time for completion by his mid-May deadline. He will move a motion tomorrow allowing the committee to sit six full days a week so that there is no point in his opponents, led by Miss Jo Richardson, Mr Peter Thurnham and Mr Teresa Gorman, mounting a filibuster.

Mr Alton has a majority of one in committee and there is no chance of his Bill being dramatically altered there. However, tactics employed in committee will have a critical bearing on the report stage, which both sides acknowledge is where the Bill stands its greatest chance of being killed.

If Mr Alton cannot complete the debate in a single half-day Friday sitting the one-clause Bill is as good as lost unless — and it is a slim hope — he can persuade the Government to give him time.

Matters debated at length in committee can generally not be restricted at report stage. Mr Alton's tactics in committee are therefore to dispose of as many

contentious issues as possible so that the report stage debate can concentrate on the single central issue of whether his proposed 18-week deadline should be raised.

Thus he has already announced amendments for the committee stage that will allow abortions after 18 weeks — for mothers whose babies are likely to be born with severe physical and mental disabilities, and for girls under 18 who have been raped.

His opponents tabled amendments yesterday allowing exemptions for the birth of the baby would lead to subsequent mental stress and trauma for its family, for girls under 16, for anyone raped, in cases of incest, or if either parent is infected with the Aids virus.

They are, however, caught in a dilemma. They want to enunciate the Bill, but the amendments they table in committee the fewer they can table at report stage. Conversely, if they do not put up a proper opposition, the Speaker is less likely to accept wrecking amendments on report.

The critical issue of the 18-week deadline will not be raised in committee. Mr Alton believes that all MPs should have the opportunity to vote on the issue. He is determined that they should not be faced with a simple choice of 18 or 24 weeks and his supporters could well move 20 and 22-week amendments themselves if the opponents do not.

On this, as always, Mr Alton has done his homework. He has surveyed all the MPs who voted for his Bill at second reading. He knows almost exactly the sticking point of each.

He believes that with the disability and rape amendments he could just squeeze home with the original 18-week proposal, and could secure a comfortable majority for 20 weeks.

His opponents will seek to extend the debate at report stage so long that Mr Alton cannot force a vote.

They claim that they can amass 150 signatures for report stage amendments — enough to ensure that the Speaker cannot but accept them for debate.

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North-south dividing line now stretching higher in search for 'quality of life'

Commuters travel further to escape London house costs

By John Spicer and Christopher Warman

The north-south dividing line on house prices seems to be moving further north.

Previously, the line stretched from Bath to the Wash. With the increase in house prices in the Midlands going up by 16.4 per cent a year, this line appears to have moved to the Chester/Grimsby axis, according to a report by the Reward Group, which specializes in business surveys.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors also confirms today in its house price survey for the three months to the end of February that property prices are increasing fast in the East Midlands and the North and South-west of England as demand outstrips supply.

The institution's report says in the East Midlands, improved communications are largely responsible for the big increases. It says that the M40 link has ensured that 20 per cent of all housing inquiries are from the south-east conurbation.

"Buyers now realize they can commute to London from

the southern part of the Midlands and Banbury corridor. Consequently demand exceeds supply.

London and the South-east are seeing reduced growth at present, with realistic rather than speculative prices achieved. One London agent told the survey that demand was still strong, "but prices are not booming as they once were", and another said that prices had slackened off since last October and were now more realistic.

The Reward report says house prices in Greater London are increasing by £67 a day. It discloses that the annual increase in house prices is a staggering 20 per cent, and shows that the rise in London continues unabated. Those are running at 31.1 per cent a year and "appear to be pulling prices up beyond the reaches of the Home Counties".

With improved rail services, people are buying property and commuting longer distances to work in London and the knock-on effect of this

is that prices are rising further north.

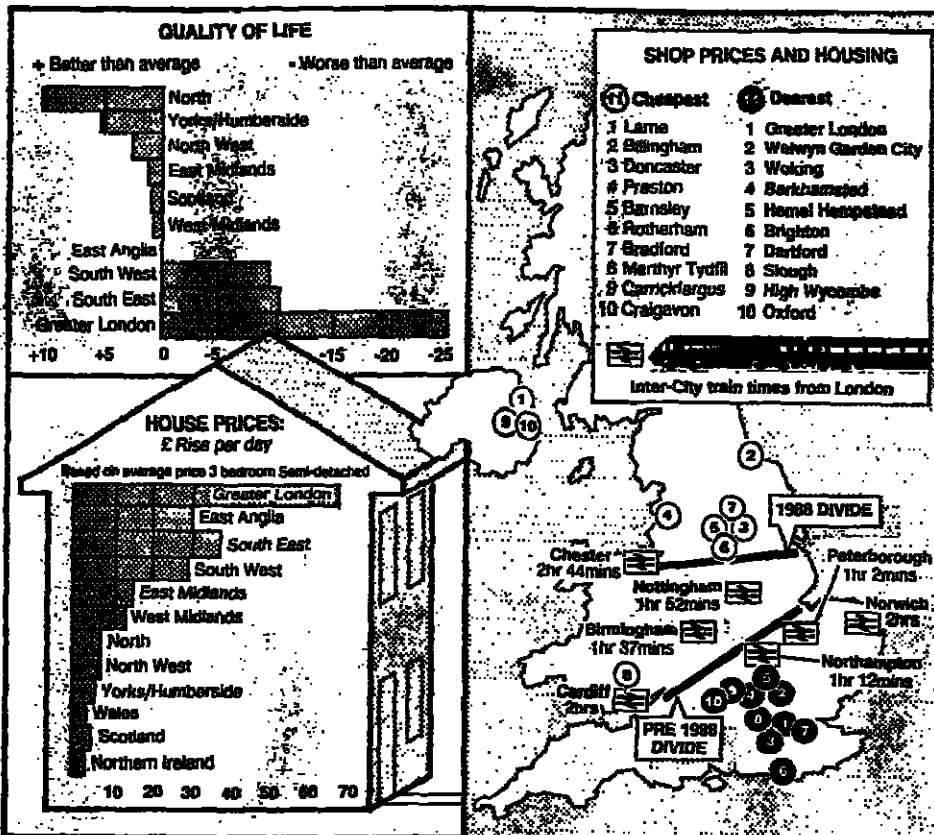
Six months ago house prices in the West Midlands were rising by 9.3 per cent and 11.9 per cent in the East Midlands.

The Reward survey says: "The cost of housing is the single most difficult factor which affects the movement of people to the South. More and more individuals are becoming positively unwilling to accept promotion and to move south because of the increased cost of housing."

"Companies in the regions, however, will profit by this restriction of the flow of talent to the capital, with the cheaper areas being able to retain their more able and ambitious employees."

Miss Sue Shortland, a member of the Confederation of British Industry employee relocation council, confirmed that this was still true.

She said it was one reason why companies wishing to relocate, or attract staff from one area to another, were concentrating more on communication and expensive relocation packages in an effort



fort to convince staff of the value of moving.

The Nationwide Building Society, which carries out a quarterly survey of prices, also confirmed the findings yesterday.

A spokesman said: "People working in the London area have the advantage of London weighting payments."

"We also find that because of improved rail services to the North, people are moving

further out. We find that commuters are willing to travel up to two hours each way to get to work."

"As a result, there is a pressure on house prices further from the capital."

The Reward survey shows that the average price for a three bedroom semi-detached house in Greater London is £107,200 — 31.1 per cent increase (£67 a day). In East Anglia, a similar

house now costs £49,775 — a 28.9 per cent rise, or £30 a day. In the South-east, a three bedroom semi costs £59,286 — a 25.3 per cent annual increase, or £27 a day. Cheaper areas are still Northern Ireland where a similar house fetches £25,975, an annual increase of 3.4 per cent, or £3 a day.

Cost of Living: Regional Comparisons, February 1988 (Reward Group, 1 Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8BA; £55).

Slow-down in prices eases pay pressure

Incomes need to rise at 4 per cent to maintain living standards — the lowest increase for almost five years, according to a survey published yesterday.

Reward, the half-yearly cost of living study, registered a 7.8 per cent rise six months ago, but says a slowdown in shop price rises and cheaper mortgages were now beginning to register.

The survey does not take account of the impact of Budget tax cuts or the new social security regulations on living standards.

It shows wide regional variations. In the high-cost South-east, for instance, incomes need to go up by 7.1 per cent to maintain living standards, compared with 1.9 per cent in the North.

The Reward figures show that the cost of living is between 30 per cent and 50 per cent higher in Greater London, but that salaries and wages are also higher.

The Reward "Quality of Life" index — which takes account of both pay and living costs — discloses a reverse north-south divide, with Greater London bottom of the table at 25 per cent below the national average.

The North, Yorkshire, Humberside and the North-west are the best regions of the UK in which to live, according to the survey.

It says: "Employers in the 'poor' quality of life areas of the South-east and South-west may well care to consider the benefits of moving to the excellent sites and accommodation being provided by development associations in the Midlands and the North."

"Inner city redevelopment and business parks would welcome the investment and the inhabitants the employment opportunities."

One of the main drawbacks to living in the South-east is the high cost of housing, according to the survey.

It shows property prices rising by 31.1 per cent in Greater London, with the cost of a three-bedroom semi leaping by £67 a day and now standing at more than £107,000.

That is more than four times the price of a similar house in the East or West Midlands, the North, the North-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Solicitors against 10% home deposit

By Our Property Correspondent

The payment of a 10 per cent deposit when buying a house, an irritant and sometimes a burden on the purchaser, is questioned by the Law Commission and the Law Society, in a consultation paper published today.

The commission's conveyancing standing committee, charged with finding ways to simplify and speed the conveyancing process, with the Law Society, wonders whether this "earnest" of the buyer's intention to complete the deal when he has signed a binding contract is justified.

The report says that times are changing, and that a survey of solicitors carried out by the committee showed that 5 per cent deposits are now common (about one-sixth of all cases), and that the seller often pays the deposit on the house he is buying, rather than the buyer pays.

"So the same money provides apparent security for a whole chain of contracts."

In the report, the two bodies argue that there are alternatives to the deposit: insurance schemes that provide guarantees instead of deposits.

Putting forward the case against deposits they say that they add to the cost of conveyancing, that 10 per cent is more than a disappointed seller needs as compensation, that when a purchaser has a 100 per cent mortgage it is unreasonable to demand an advance payment, and that they are not paid in Scotland (where there are no excessive defaults).

The case for deposits is that they make sure purchases go through. Only 0.02 per cent of deposits were forfeited in the survey sample.

In the past, the Law Society is on record as supporting the principle of a deposit while questioning its size, while the Halifax Building Society believes that the 10 per cent deposit should be abolished and replaced by a reduced deposit of perhaps 1 per cent of the purchase price.

The committee is seeking comments by July 31. Deposits on Exchange of Contracts in Residential Conveyancing: Time for a Change? (Law Commission, Conquest House, 37/38 John Street, Theobalds Road, London WC1N 2BQ; free).

Victoria Cross is sold for £19,800

A Victoria Cross distinguished because its recipient forfeited it in disgrace fetched £19,800, double its estimate, at Sotheby's yesterday. It was bought by a private London buyer, and will remain in this country.

Midshipman Edward St John Daniel, the only VC recipient officer to be so downgraded, was first awarded his medal in 1857 for services in the Crimean War, when he brought in gunpowder from a wagon under heavy fire, and showed devotion to his captain, William Peel.

In 1860 he was court-martialled for being absent without leave and found in "a state of torpor".

He was dismissed from his ship HMS Wasp, and lowered to the bottom of the Lieutenant's List. Next, he was caught "taking indecent liberties" with some junior officers. He then jumped ship in Corfu, and was never seen by the Royal Navy again.

It must have been relieved about that, as it saved it from holding a second, highly embarrassing court-martial.

Only eight VCs have forfeited their medals, the last being in 1908.

At the same sale, a posthumous VC awarded to a Punjabi soldier in 1945 for killing 23 Japanese attackers singlehandedly fetched top price of £35,750 against an estimate of £12,000 to £15,000, again to an anonymous private buyer. Naik Sher Shah, aged 27, was a member of the 16th Punjab Regiment.

One night in January 1945, his post was attacked by a Japanese platoon, and, aware that he was outnumbered, Sher Shah crept behind the enemy and managed to shoot the commander and six others dead before crawling back to safety. He then made two further sorties, in which he lost his right leg, and finally, his life.

Dealers were active buyers at Christie's Chinese Export Porcelain sale yesterday, at

which the total was £446,600 with 19 per cent uplift.

A rare Ming blue and white armorial pilgrim flask fetched top price of £59,400 against an estimate of £30,000 to £40,000, selling to the London dealer Cohen and Pearce.

Made for the Spanish market, it was decorated on one side with a circular medallion incorporating the emblems of Leon and Castile for the Royal House of Spain, and on the other with a seated sage addressing a young boy. Next came a pair of Qianlong oval turquoise with domed covers and painted with birds standing on rockwork among flowering peony. Estimated at £6,000 to £9,000 they fetched £15,400. A pair of large Qianlong famille rose baluster jars with seated lion finials, each painted with colourful phoenix, fetched £13,200 (estimate £7,000 to £9,000) again to Cohen and Pearce.

Other good prices included that of £9,350, double the estimate, for a Canton enamel famille rose rectangular box and cover, painted with birds amongst flowering tree sprays and European scenes, and Dutch figures playing cards and drinking.

Andy Warhol's mass-produced images of European queens were the highlights of Sotheby's contemporary art sale in Amsterdam yesterday.

Top price at the sale was Dfl 174,800 (£50,375; within estimate) for a portrait of a woman in a blue dress by Dees van Dongen. The sale was not a total success, with 24 per cent unsold.

Johnny van Haeflen sold An Allegory of Summer by Lucas van Valckenborgh and Georg Flegel for about £500,000 at the Maastricht Fair, not £250,000 as stated in yesterday's Times. Alan Jacobs Ltd sold a seascape by Backhuysen for £30,000.

8 days a week?

Has Robert Maxwell managed to pull off the ultimate deal with you-know-who?

Indeed he has. You know who being, of course,

Well, admittedly what suits him isn't necessarily right for you.

But there's a range of portable Cellphones from basic models, starting at around £1395, to more elaborate ones, some of which can be easily adapted for use as a car phone.

mobile business communication for over a quarter of a century.

(Yes, that long.)

The field has grown considerably over the last few years so a separate division, British Telecom Mobile Communications, was set up to cater solely for this area.

Our systems, as you've seen, benefit from

IN A BUSINESS WORKING 7 DAYS A WEEK. I WORKED OUT HOW TO PUT IN 8.

ROBERT MAXWELL

British Telecom.

Statistics show that a mobile phone can add the equivalent of an extra day to a typical working week. Providing Mr. Maxwell with the means to keep his fingers on Fleet Street's pulse while thumbing casually through his Sunday.

Or walk into an Oxford United training session while simultaneously running Derby County.

Or stop his publishing profits going West while he's on a 125 heading East to a charity meeting.

The new Cellphone being put to devastating use here is one of a range of hand portables.

It's small and light enough to be carried in even Mr. Maxwell's over-crammed briefcase.

Pity those poor people whose names are stored in its memory.

It will search them out, and dial them, at the touch of a button.

While the VOX system extends battery life, giving Robert over an hour to wear down any resistance to his proposals before recharging is necessary.

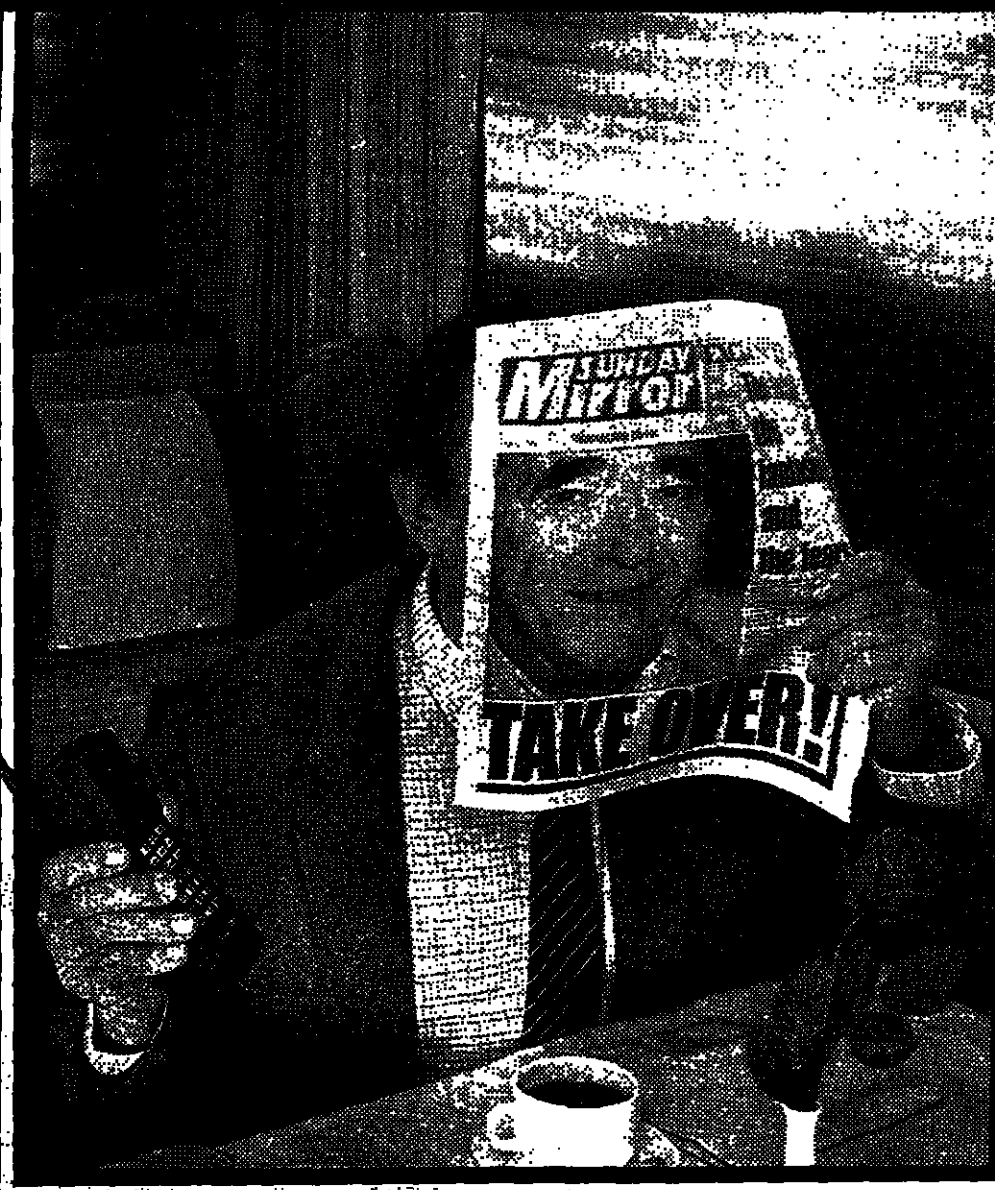
Even then, he can immediately clip into position the spare battery provided.

Could that, possibly, also be flat?

Alas no.

It comes complete with two chargers: one which connects to the mains, another that works from a car's cigarette lighter.

"Hurrah for Mr. Maxwell", you may muse, "but what's in it for me?"



Obviously you choose the one most suited to your needs.

All our Cellphones operate on the Cellnet System, so you can send or receive calls from almost anywhere in the country.

The result of millions of pounds of research and development, it offers the widest cover in the UK, including all major cities, commercial centres, and roads. And you can dial direct to almost any number in the world.

A number of advanced facilities are also available, such as 'Message Saver' which turns your phone into a virtual answering machine.

British Telecom have specialised in

the very latest in technology.

They're also thoroughly checked and tested for both efficiency and reliability.

On every product we offer a 12 month no quibble guarantee.

For a small annual payment, this can be extended as long as you like.

If you have a problem, there's a 24 hour helpline.

And our Mobile Communication Service Network is second to none, with highly trained engineers at over 130 centres throughout the land.

It's our proud aim to complete every service within a working day.

If you'd like to know which of these systems,

would suit you best, just fill in the coupon.

Alternatively, you can simply call British Telecom Cellphones free of charge on the number below.

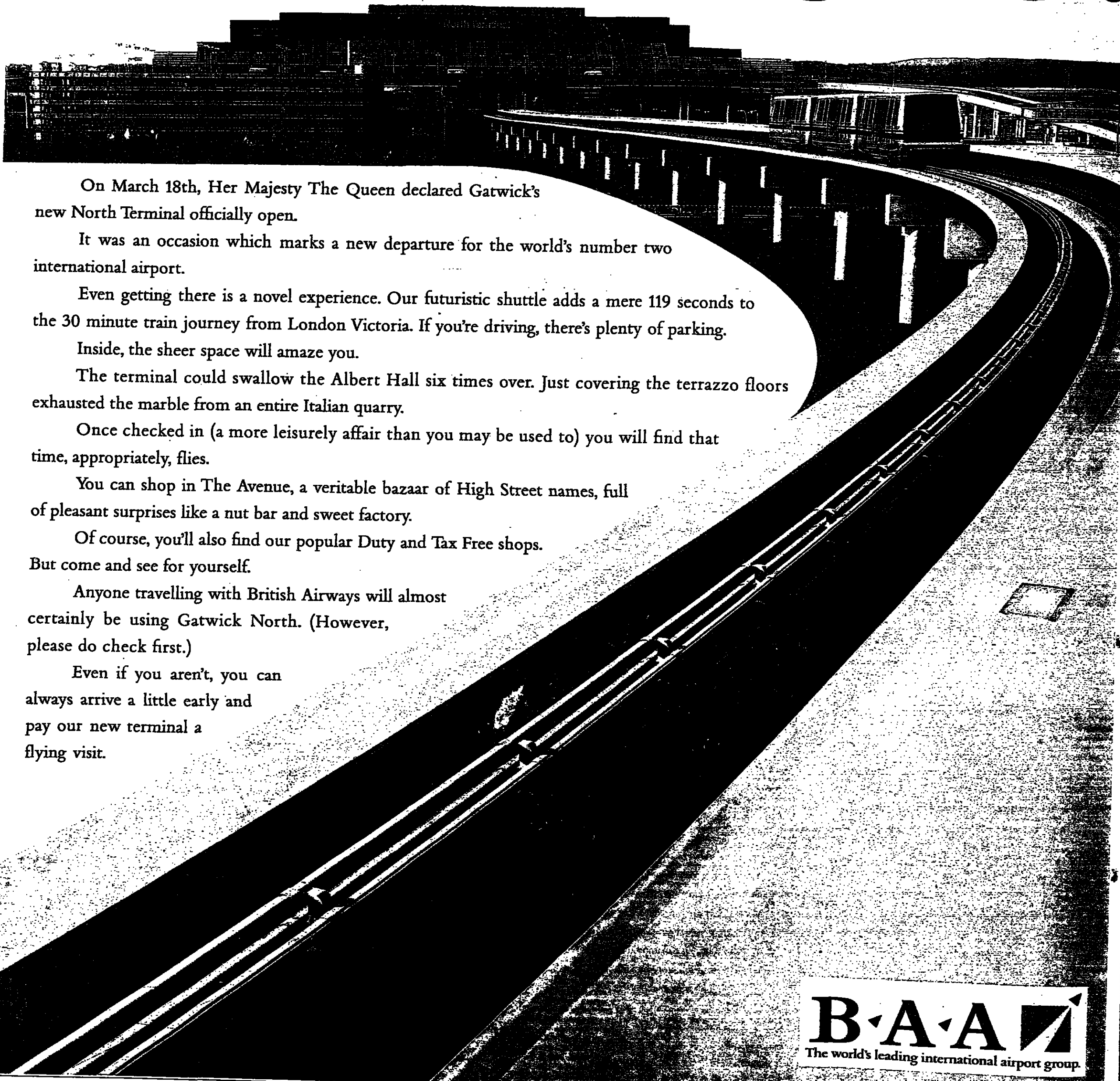
Putting it off till another day could be an awful waste of your time.

For more information on British Telecom Cellphones, send this coupon to: Jill Ruckin, British Telecom Mobile Communications, FREEPOST, BS 3333, Bristol, BS1 4YP. Or telephone 0800 222 655.

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 Position _____
 Company Name _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____ Telephone _____

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Terminal boredom ends here.



On March 18th, Her Majesty The Queen declared Gatwick's new North Terminal officially open.

It was an occasion which marks a new departure for the world's number two international airport.

Even getting there is a novel experience. Our futuristic shuttle adds a mere 119 seconds to the 30 minute train journey from London Victoria. If you're driving, there's plenty of parking.

Inside, the sheer space will amaze you.

The terminal could swallow the Albert Hall six times over. Just covering the terrazzo floors exhausted the marble from an entire Italian quarry.

Once checked in (a more leisurely affair than you may be used to) you will find that time, appropriately, flies.

You can shop in The Avenue, a veritable bazaar of High Street names, full of pleasant surprises like a nut bar and sweet factory.

Of course, you'll also find our popular Duty and Tax Free shops. But come and see for yourself.

Anyone travelling with British Airways will almost certainly be using Gatwick North. (However, please do check first.)

Even if you aren't, you can always arrive a little early and pay our new terminal a flying visit.

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The world's leading international airport group.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Pravda breaks its silence on unrest

Moscow — Pravda yesterday broke a month-long silence on the ethnic crisis in Soviet Transcaucasia with a lengthy article making clear that the Kremlin will not give way to the demands of Armenian demonstrators seeking the return of disputed land (Christopher Walker writes).

The report, which means the end of having been drafted at top-party level and the headline "Anxious and Reason", leaves diplomats convinced that the Soviet authorities will refuse to transfer the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijani to Armenian control.

Pravda, which gave no explanation for its previous failure to make anything but the scantiest reference to the unrest, accused leaders of the mass protests which have brought some one million people on to the streets of Yerevan, the Armenian capital, of being influenced by the West.

The article, which appeared less than a week before the Saturday deadline set by the demonstrators for the resolution of their problem, admitted that "hundreds" of people had been injured during rioting in the Azerbaijani city of Samagait on February 28, but stuck to the official death toll of 32. Many local sources put it at over 500.

US-Soviet Panama meeting standstill

Washington — Mr. Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, held their first negotiating session today after preliminary discussions yesterday on the forthcoming summit meeting (Michael Binyon writes).

On his arrival, Mr. Shevardnadze acknowledged that Washington's attention at the moment is focused more on Central America than on the forthcoming summit, and said that the situation in Central America was "a grave and of some serious concern to us".

The two men are expected to discuss Panama, the US exercise in the Caribbean, and the Asian peace plan, as well as Afghanistan, in their talks on regional issues.

Pressmen Embassy set free

Rome — Two Italian journalists accused of violating official secrecy in a "leaking" investigation were freed yesterday by the local Tribunale Della Libertà, a court which defines citizens' rights in a lawfully agreed compromise (Gian Corbelli writes).

Journalists on Wednesday at Anzio, near Rome, and Savona, provoked an outcry by press associations and magistrates when they were seen as an attempt to limit freedom of information.

The articles on Wednesday also investigated the "important" role of the police in the investigation of political crimes.

Polynesians go to polls

Wellington (Reuter) — Voting off to a slow start here today, though rural voters expected to the polls — after a three-week general election campaign in which there had been virtually no discussion of the main issues.

Mr. Keating, a left-party member of Parliament, said that the election had been a primary election for the rest of the world.

Church conflict with Botha

Runcie sends envoy to underline his backing for Tutu

By Clifford Longley and Michael Hornsby

Anglican bishops from prior clergy in South Africa in throughout southern Africa to a series of attacks on and beyond meet in Johannesburg today in emergency session. Archbishop Tutu, which culminated in show solidarity with the Archbishop Desmond Tutu in his role as a "stand-the-fact of a growing threat of confrontation between the church and the government."

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has sent the Rev. John Stanger, a priest, to represent him at the meeting, which is to be held in a hotel near Jan Smuts airport. Dr Runcie spoke to Archbishop Tutu by telephone last Friday to discuss the latest government threats.

Dr Runcie told the British Council of Churches at its meeting in north Wales yesterday that the Bishop of Lichfield's presence was to show his support for Archbishop Tutu.

"It seems plain to me that the South African Government is determined to isolate Archbishop Tutu and other Christian leaders," Dr Runcie said. "I do not believe they will succeed in this. Christian churches around the world should take every opportunity to show solidarity with brave Christian witnesses in South Africa."

Bishop Sutton, who has been in South Africa since 1985, when he was appointed Archbishop of Cape Town, said that the church was at a "crisis of particular tension."

Dr Runcie also referred yesterday to the "growing confrontation" in South Africa, and said that the church was "determined to stand with the people of South Africa in their struggle for freedom and justice."

The decision to convene the emergency meeting was taken by the Anglican bishops and senior clergy in South Africa.

54 seamen missing after Iraqi attack

From A Correspondent, Bahrain

As many as 54 seamen were reported missing, perhaps killed, yesterday in Iraqi air raids against Iran's big oil terminal at Kharg Island.

The toll, if verified, would be the highest in any single attack in the four years of the so-called tanker war.

Mr Christen Puntervold, of the Norwegian Shipping Association, said that only four of the 29 seamen on board the 3,377-tonne supertanker, Samudra, had been accounted for, and that 29 of those on the 316,379-tonne, Avaj, were also missing.

Iranian gunboats in the southern Gulf attacked a Liberian tanker and a Spanish refrigerated cargo ship. Shipping officials said both ships caught fire, and one, the 10,168-tonne Iberian Reefer, was described as "burning fiercely" in the Strait of Hormuz, with assistance still some hours away. The second ship, the 61,762-tonne tanker, Fumi, was hit by rocket-propelled grenades.

Israel's grip on West Bank



An Israeli soldier tackling a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank yesterday before arresting him. Four Palestinians were shot and injured in demonstrations in the area.

Palestinian killed in Gaza

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

A Palestinian man was shot dead yesterday and several others were injured as Israeli troops clashed with demonstrators at several places in the occupied West Bank, and in the Gaza Strip.

Yesterday's protests were more widespread than they have been in recent days, apparently triggered by a call by leaders of the PLO to demonstrate against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

The most serious of yesterday's clashes was at the Shatila refugee camp in Gaza, where a 21-year-old demonstrator, Jabbar Adel, was shot dead by Israeli soldiers.

The latest Israeli count, released at the end of last week, put the number of dead at 89.

Other demonstrations in the Gaza Strip took place in Khan Yunis and in the Jabaliya refugee camp.

In the West Bank there were demonstrations in the Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron areas. Some demonstrators were injured and wounded by Israeli troops.

The killing of the Army sergeant, Moshe Katz, in the Gaza Strip, was the first of a series of deaths since the occupation of the West Bank in 1967.

These sources claim a further six Palestinians have died as a result of beatings, and 23 as the result of teargas asphyxiation.

The latest Israeli count, released at the end of last week, put the number of dead at 89.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops were still searching yesterday for the killers of Sergeant Moshe Katz in Bethlehem on Sunday. Dozens of local Palestinians have been rounded up for questioning.

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High price paid to aid Contras

From a Correspondent, Managua

Nicaragua's fierce assault against Contra targets along the Honduran border has seriously damaged the rebels' ability to continue their flagging, seven-year guerrilla war.

The onslaught has also inflicted grave political harm, bringing intensified calls from a broad spectrum of Honduran politicians to end support for the fighters, who have clearly lost the struggle to destabilize the Sandinista Government.

The Honduran Government has paid a heavy political price for allowing the Contras to operate along its southern border. It has perhaps done the least of all the countries of the isthmus to comply with the regional peace treaty it signed last year with Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, resulting in intense criticism at home and abroad.

The treaty specifically bans the use of territory to assist rebel groups. President Azcona's astonishing statement a few days ago that there are no Contra bases in his country flies in the face of countless independent witnesses' accounts: the somewhat ridiculous assertion is perhaps a reflection of the depth of his embarrassment.

International criticism has led to serious tensions in the governing alliance of Army officers and civilians. A re-evaluation of support for the rebels is under way in the highest levels of the military and among top politicians at a time when the United States Congress is determined to end America's involvement in the conflict. Without Honduran co-operation, the rebels would instantly collapse.

Honduras is the poorest country in the region and depends heavily on US aid, making it susceptible to pressure from Washington. But with the Contras showing signs of disintegrating the Honduran Government is growing more defiant of American exhortations because of fears that defeated

senior Army officers, politicians and wealthy businessmen. Any big political decision has to be approved first by a vote of top Army officers and then it goes to the National Security Council, the de facto governing body, where the President and two other civilians are outnumbered by six senior military officers.

The US has exercised tremendous political clout by virtue of giving \$1 billion (\$550 million) in economic and military aid in six years. It has often angered and undermined the civilian Government by its direct involvement with the rebels.

The main concern of both the civilian and military arms of the Government is that America proposes to do with the 12,000-strong Contra army, which the US created but now refuses to arm.

The leader of the National Republican Alliance, Señor Alfredo Cristiani, said the party had won 55 per cent of the vote according to preliminary counts. The alliance, which accused the Christian Democrats of prolonging the war against the rebels to get rich from US aid, advocates tougher military tactics and a crackdown on rebel sympathizers.

took lorries or special buses to the polls. Political parties said the turnout was between 50 and 65 per cent.

Despite a traffic ban called by the rebels, thousands of people walked or took lorries or special buses to the polls. Political parties said the turnout was between 50 and 65 per cent.



Tonight at 8.00 on ITV

JOHN THAW as CHIEF INSPECTOR MORSE
"LEAST BUS TO WOODSTOCK"
KEVIN WHATELY PETER WOODTHORPE ANTHONY BATE VERRENCE HARDIMAN
FABIA Drake JILL Drake HOLLY ALBE PAUL GEOFFREY
Screenplay by MICHAEL WILCOX Based on the novel by COLIN DEXTER
Music by BARRINGTON PHELOUNG
Produced by KENNY MCBAIN Directed by PETER DUFFELL
Executive Producer TED CHILDS
Produced by ZENITH for Central Independent Television.

Another great report on the Apple Macintosh.

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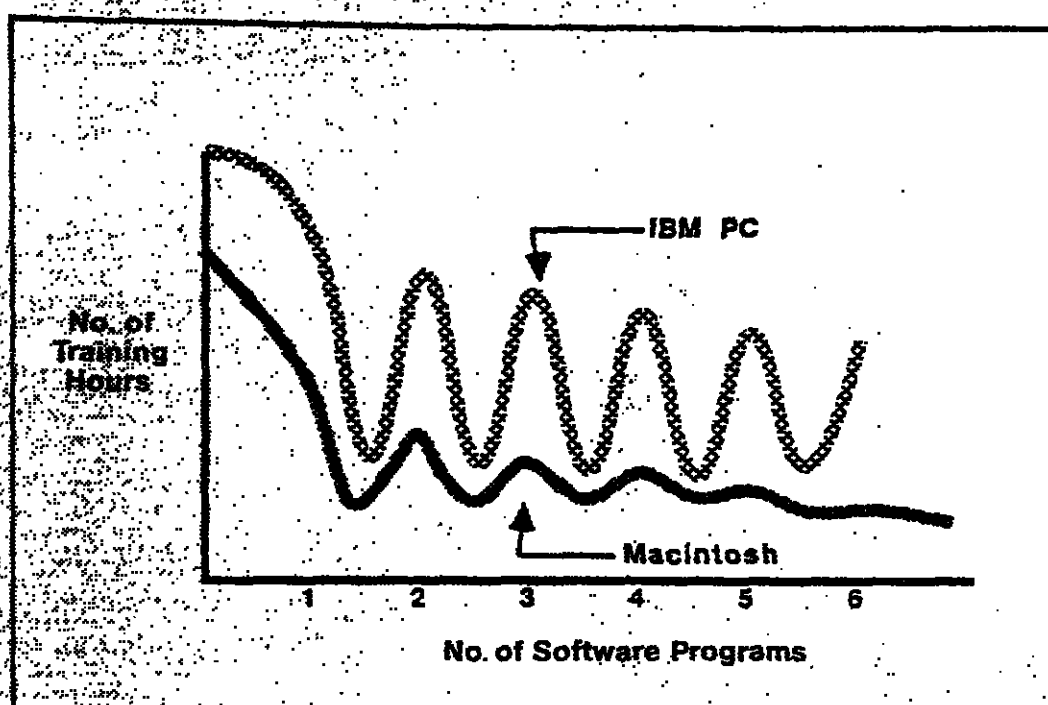
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Figure VII

Incremental Training Time Comparison IBM PC vs. Macintosh



In an industry dominated by third-party applications, Apple is the only vendor to implement a standard, consistent user interface successfully. Industry-wide application software standards are all but non-existent. Applications developers start with a piece of hardware and a low-level operating system, and create from the ground up the application that is ultimately presented to the user. Lacking any high-level user interface tools or guidelines, each application presents its own user interface, designed according to the personal views of each developer. Each developer reinvents the wheel, and users face as wide a variety of interfaces as there are opinions among developers. Furthermore, the user interface has often been the last step in program design, receiving attention that is scant relative to its importance.

Apple was the first PC vendor to make the user interface a fundamental part of the system architecture. Its desktop interface succeeded not only because it is there, but also because it is good. Any proposed standard will fail if it is not sufficiently powerful and flexible to fulfill its objectives. Apple chose for its standard a graphical user interface with a desktop metaphor and a mouse (others have tried text menus, touch-screen menus, text windows, etc.). This particular interface has been extremely popular with users, being intuitive and thus easy to grasp. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and the numerous attempts to bring a similar desktop interface to other workstations bespeak the success of the Mac's user interface.

Data integration and transportability across applications are another key advantage of Mac applications consistency. As part of its object-oriented API, Apple defines standard data types as objects (text, vector graphics and image) that applications can use for exchanging information. The Clipboard,

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June 30, 1987

This independent survey by the Gartner Group on the Apple Macintosh range of computers obviously makes very good reading. The Gartner Group is an organisation as well-respected in computer circles as Apple Desktop Publishing is in the business world.

If you've never used a Macintosh you may find this report quite startling.

You may even be surprised to hear that corporations all over the world are already finding the Apple Macintosh invaluable for managing and processing information, producing reports and, of course, connecting to their existing computer systems.

The Gartner Group found that the Macintosh was favoured by business because of its intuitive graphics interface, which means real ease of use. It also has a consistent software environment, so that once you've learnt one program you know the principle of using them all.

"All studies of Macintosh use of which we are aware have found that new Mac users require less initial training, less subsequent training on new applications, and less ongoing support than IBM PC users." (GARTNER GROUP, INC.)

That's quite an advantage when you consider that training costs often exceed the initial cost of hardware.

"Since the Mac's ease of use leads to less training and support requirements, companies using it should realise enormous cost savings." (GARTNER GROUP, INC.)

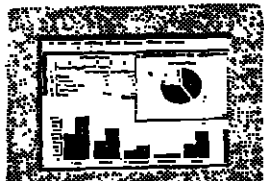
The Macintosh's ease of use was actually found to promote greater use too, because

"users (are) less reluctant to learn new applications, since the benefits are more quickly acquired." (GARTNER GROUP, INC.)

A company equipped with Macintosh can expect considerable gains in productivity, efficiency and effectiveness of all staff, from secretaries to top executives.

But you don't have to take our word for it. Just dial 100 and ask for Freefone Apple, or cut out the coupon, and we'll send you a copy of the Gartner Group's report. Then you'll be able to improve your own company's reports.

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National conflicts on policy slow the race to create unified markets

Key meeting today on EEC trade progress

By Michael Dynes

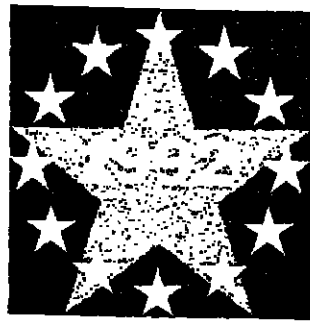
EEC trade officials meet in Brussels today to assess the Community's progress towards the creation of a unified internal market by the end of 1992, as a series of disturbing indications suggest that the momentum for economic integration is beginning to dissipate.

The meeting takes place less than a week after Lord Cockfield, Britain's Commissioner responsible for the internal market, gave warning that Europe would fail to meet the deadline unless member states accelerated efforts to endorse the accumulation of proposals designed to abolish barriers to the free movement of goods, services, labour and capital.

Since the internal market programme was unveiled amid great fanfare three years ago, the Commission has tabled 206 legislative proposals, only 69 of which have been adopted by the Council of Ministers. Six more are in the course of adoption.

No fewer than 126 proposals — calling for the deregulation of the road haulage industry, the adoption of EEC-wide pharmaceutical standards, the opening of public procurement to cross-frontier competition, the breaking of national telecommunications monopolies, and a plethora of other measures dealing with banking, company law and taxation — are awaiting approval by the Council.

Despite the Commission's determination to have 90 per cent of the White Paper internal market proposals, recently trimmed from 300 to 286, ready for consideration by the Council at the end of the year, there is a groundswell of opinion



expressing profound scepticism at the prospect of creating the single market on time — if, indeed, at all. Representatives from industry and independent research establishments are airing anxieties that, in the rush to meet the deadline, the Commission is running the risk of advocating "poorly thought-out" measures which are likely to fall far short of their objectives.

And in those areas where the Commission's proposals are not deadlocked because of the tenacious resistance of individual states, the EEC is confronted by an alarming increase in the incidence of non-compliance with EEC law, which, according to one survey, "threatens to break down the Community system" entirely.

Road haulage, a highly-regulated industry in Europe, dramatically illustrates the problems faced by many sectors. The Commission's attempt to abolish the archaic system of national quotas for cross-frontier lorry traffic by 1992 was temporarily abandoned last week, after the failure of European transport ministers to reach agreement.

A demand by Mr Paul Channon, Britain's Secretary of State for Transport, that the Community

accept the Commission's proposal to scrap bilateral quotas outright was rejected by all other states, who put their weight behind a compromise that would increase the quotas by 40 per cent over two years.

They fear that without the creation of common conditions for the industry the abolition of quotas will lead to unfair competition.

These sentiments are shared by Britain's road haulage industry. According to Mr Bob Duffy, a senior executive at the Road Haulage Association, many road hauliers in Europe, and particularly those in Britain, would be put out of business if the abolition of quotas went ahead without some degree of harmonization in the conditions of the industry.

He said: "The gross disparities in national vehicle excise taxes alone would give some hauliers an immense competitive edge over others." British companies pay the highest vehicle excise tax in Europe — £3,100 for a 38-tonne vehicle — which, if left unchanged, would put them at a mortal disadvantage.

Pharmaceuticals present complex problems, and the EEC's goal of creating a single market is in jeopardy according to senior British industrial officials, many of whom suspect that the issues stand little chance of being overcome by the deadline.

The most serious difficulties include replacing 12 sets of national drug safety regulations with a single European procedure for authorizing the marketing of new drugs, eliminating wide price disparities among member states, and providing increased patent protection for new products.

Since the Thalidomide tragedy in the 1960s, most European governments have erected complex and time-consuming procedures — such as Britain's 1968 Medicines Act — for testing the quality, safety and efficacy of new drugs.

The Commission has been examining two potential solutions to the problems. The first is the creation of a central body, similar to the US Food and Drug Administration, which would be responsible for testing all drugs in the Community.

The second focuses on a system of mutual recognition of different national standards, where a drug authorized for sale by one state would automatically be accepted by the others.

While the Commission is expected to make its decision next year, many industry specialists expect the process of securing member-state approval to drag on for years.

Public procurement will be discussed today by trade ministers, who will attempt to take policy a stage further by adopting a directive compelling local authorities to open public contracts to cross-border competition.

But diplomats in Brussels have already indicated that they expect the measure to be held up because of a dispute over whether to oblige local authorities to award contracts to companies which observe EEC equal opportunity legislation.

Telecommunications, likewise, has produced opposition to the Community's goal of creating a single market for the industry. A Commission proposal to liberalize the market for terminals has met stiff resistance from Britain, West



Lord Cockfield

Governments must accelerate efforts to endorse proposals

Germany and France on the grounds that the Commission is trying to increase its powers at the expense of the sovereignty of member states.

But without common technical standards, which would enable consumers to buy a terminal in Düsseldorf and plug it in to a socket in London, a single market for telecommunications is unlikely to materialize.

Because most European governments have a vested interest in protecting their telecommunications industries from external competition, British telecommunications officials expect progress on making terminal equipment compatible to be painfully slow.

According to Mrs Brenda McAll, a planning manager for British Telecom's government relations department: "If the Commission hopes to complete the internal market for telecommunications by 1992 it is going to need a great deal of support from member states."

"It would be difficult to meet the deadline in the best of circumstances, but this is clearly not the case."

Compounding the difficulties of creating the single market on time, the EEC is also faced by a rapid increase in the failure of member states to implement effectively many of the measures already passed into law.

A recent study published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, *Implementing the European Internal Market*, draws attention to the "rising tide" of member state non-implementation of EEC rules and regulations, which, it claimed, "is threatening a breakdown in the Community system if allowed to continue rising for much longer."

The study noted that there was a "large and growing gap between the rhetoric of European leaders and the realities, and claimed that the enthusiasm for completing the internal market was not warranted by the Community's patchy record in implementing existing EEC law."

Pointing out that it is comparatively easy to create the internal market in law and still fail to create it in fact, the study warned that: "Born-again integrationists would do well to ponder how and why plans for an internal market in the EEC Treaty of 1957 failed to be realized by the 1980s."

US mob kills robbery suspect

New York (AP) — Raymondo Carraballo, aged 41, a suspected drug addict accused of snatching \$20 (£11) from a woman in a bakery, was beaten to death by an angry mob that responded to her pleas for help, police said.

The crowd of more than a dozen people used sticks and their bare hands to beat the man. One grabbed a dashbin and bashed it down on the victim's chest and then others used it to hit him repeatedly.

Ship held

Rome — The Italian ship, *Nuova Ventura*, was seized and its captain and first mate arrested after 16 Kalashnikov assault rifles were discovered in a container aboard the vessel as it arrived in Genoa from Beirut.

Tamil deaths

Colombo (Reuters) — Indian troops killed five women guerrillas and one man of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in two gunfights in Sri Lanka, according to military officials.

Hostage dies

Amsterdam (Reuters) — Herve Tondou, the 19-year-old son of a French supermarket owner, was found dead hours after his parents paid a \$50,000-franc (£33,000) ransom.

Blast injury

Hong Kong (Reuters) — A man was injured by a blast in his Hong Kong flat and police, who found three detonators, suspected he had been making bombs.

Intruder shot

Delhi (AP) — An intruder, challenged by security guards, was shot dead while scaling a gate outside the Indian Parliament.

New court

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Hong Kong hopes to set up its own final court of appeal by 1992, five years before China regains the British colony.

Next edition

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) — The Malaysian newspaper, *The Star*, banned since October, is expected to resume publishing soon, company officials said.

Finally equal

Mons-Sartoux (Reuters) — The council in this southern French town, ruling that death should be the ultimate leveler, has offered free funerals to all residents.

Germans celebrate 'personal' poll win

From John England Bonn

West Germany's Christian Democrats were yesterday celebrating their retention of their last absolute majority in the country in the state election in Baden-Württemberg on Sunday, while the Social Democrats and Free Democrats were analysing unexpected losses.

But the Christian Democrats' survival, despite dropping nearly 3 percentage points from its share of the

RESULTS		
Party	%	Seats
CDU	49.1 (+2.8)	68 (+2)
SPD	32.0 (-0.4)	42 (-1)
Greens	7.9 (-0.1)	10 (-1)
FDP	5.9 (-1.7)	7 (-1)
Turnout: 6.8 million, 71.8% (+0.6)		

vote in the last election in 1984, was seen as a personal victory for Herr Lothar Späth, the state Prime Minister, rather than approval of the party's policies in Bonn.

Herr Späth disassociated himself from some of the federal Government's plans, especially on tax reforms, and fought what he described yesterday as a campaign "tailored" for his state. That included rejection of a coalition with the Free Democrats along the lines of the conservative-liberal alliance in Bonn.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, however, said that he disagreed with the view that Herr Späth had been able to save his majority only by visibly backing off from the Christian Democrats in the capital. He said he personally had appeared as the "main actor" in the campaign.

The coalition in Bonn was stable before the poll, he added, and was especially so after it. He also dismissed



Chancellor Kohl showing relief at a press conference yesterday with Herr Lothar Späth, the Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, after the Christian Democrats' election victory.

concern that voter support for two far right-wing parties, the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party and the Republicans, which polled a total of 3.1 per cent, signified an extremist development.

Herr Späth, aged 50, has been Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg for 10 years. His party won 49.1 per cent of the vote for 66 seats in the 125-seat state parliament. That is two seats fewer than in the last assembly, but sufficient to continue the Christian Democrats' 16-year rule.

The Social Democrats, led for the first time by Herr Dieter Späth, aged 44, a bright technocrat, were expected to improve on their 32.4 per cent in 1984. Instead, they received 32 per cent in their worst

result in the state for 20 years, although they have gained one seat for a total of 42 in the new assembly.

The Greens maintained their position as the third force in the state. They will have nine seats in Stuttgart, one more than previously.

The largest blow was suffered by the Free Democrats led by Herr Walter Döring, aged 34, also a new top candidate. The party won 7.2 per cent in 1984 and was confident of winning nearly 9 per cent on Sunday to form a coalition with what it expected to be the broken Christian Democrats party.

The Free Democrats' vote, however, dropped to 5.9 per cent, its worst performance ever in a state seen as its

homeland and where it once fielded a prime minister. Herr Döring's future as leader may now be in doubt.

The gains by the National Democratic Party and Republicans continued to be seen by the conservatives yesterday as the result of protest votes by discontented farmers who usually support the Christian Democrats. Herr Kohl said on Sunday that more must be done for the rural community.

But the National Democratic Party's result of 2.1 per cent was its best since 1968 when it polled 9.8 per cent and entered the state assembly for one four-year term.

Neither the National Democrats or the Republicans will be represented in the new Parliament.

Leading article, page 13

News analysis

Bonn watch on 'Späth factor'

By Richard Owen

Both Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Herr Lothar Späth, the Christian Democrat regional Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, were beaming yesterday after Sunday's key regional election.

But the beam on Herr Späth's face was broader, as well it might be. The Baden-Württemberg result, in which the Christian Democrats (CDU) lost support but still held on to their 16-year-old majority in the regional Parliament in Stuttgart, was a personal triumph for Herr Späth rather than a vote of confidence in the CDU, as Herr Dieter Späth, the local SPD leader, was the first to point out.

"Späth's election" was the headline in the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*. Over the past 10 years Herr Späth has transformed Baden-Württemberg from a Land of Black Forest cuckoo clocks into a dynamic and wealthy region of high-tech industry. At 50, he is seen as a man with a future in Bonn rather than Stuttgart, a potential successor to Herr Kohl as CDU leader and Chancellor. In the short-term he is a possible successor to Herr Manfred Wörner as Defence Minister when Herr Wörner goes to Brussels in July as Nato's Secretary-General.

But Herr Späth achieved his victory by deliberately — and astutely — distancing himself from Herr Kohl and the CDU in himself during the campaign. He avoided Bonn campaigning on national issues, such as tax reform or nuclear power, let alone on European issues, such as farm spending. Stripped of the Späth factor, the election clearly reflects dissatisfaction

with the CDU-FDP (liberal) coalition in Bonn, and confirms a run of CDU local election setbacks last year.

There is still dismay among CDU voters over the death last September of Dr Uwe Barschel, the CDU Prime Minister in Schleswig-Holstein, who had been accused of election "dirty tricks". It is a measure of Herr Kohl's difficulties that for the CDU to drop nearly three percentage points (from 51.9 per cent in 1984 to 49.1 per cent this time) and to lose two seats in the Baden-Württemberg Parliament is seen as a victory.

No less alarming is the 5.2 per cent of the vote which went to ultra-right extremist groups, including the neo-Nazi NPD, whose slogan was "Germany for the Germans". On the other hand, the NPD is not only against immigrants, it is also against the EEC. Much of the right-wing vote was a rural protest against Herr Kohl for having put many family farms at risk by agreeing to the farm reform package at the EEC's Brussels summit in February, which Herr Kohl chaired.

If there are lessons here for Herr Kohl, on the other hand, there is little comfort for the liberals (Free Democrats), the CDU's Bonn coalition partners, who lost 1.3 percentage points, let alone for the opposition Social Democrats (SPD). The SPD gained one seat in Stuttgart. But its share of the vote, at 32 per cent, was slightly down on 1984 — and this at a time when the CDU is in trouble. "Catastrophe for the SPD" was the stark comment of *Die Welt*.

The complete failure of the SPD, which had an attractive local leader in Herr Späth, to capitalize on anti-Kohl sentiment, will cause heart searching at SPD headquarters in Bonn. Despite denials there yesterday, many will blame the row sparked off by Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the ambitious, left-wing SPD Prime Minister in the Saarland, who in the middle of the Baden-Württemberg campaign proposed a new economic policy involving a reduction in working hours for less pay. This split the SPD, with some accusing Herr Lafontaine of abandoning the working class, and others agreeing that only by becoming more centrist can the SPD re-gain the chance of power.

The Lafontaine effect, and the agonized SPD debate (in itself a reflection of the wider Socialist dilemma in Europe) over how to avoid permanent relegation to the political wilderness may have had as much impact on the Baden-Württemberg vote as the Späth factor. If so, Herr Kohl can hope that the SPD might fall, after all, to oust the CDU from power in the next regional election in Schleswig-Holstein in May. Only then will the CDU be able to halt a steady loss of morale and support.

Much depends on how long it takes for the SPD to find new direction, perhaps moving towards the idea of a centrist coalition with the FDP, with a view to changing the face of coalition politics in West Germany by the time of the next general election in 1990.

Europe presses on with plan to lift television frontiers

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The EEC is to press ahead with plans for imposing Community-wide standards and regulations in television despite objections that broadcasting is a "cultural matter" and therefore not subject to EEC control.

Lord Cockfield, the European Commissioner for the Internal Market and Britain's senior commissioner in Brussels, will tell a meeting of EEC trade ministers today that television constitutes an "economic service" within the meaning of the Treaty of Rome, the EEC's basic law, and that because of rapidly developing satellite technology there must be a European framework to guide programme makers and television authorities in all 12 member states. The move is part of the drive to create a unified European market without frontiers by 1992.

Lord Cockfield's EEC White Paper, *TV without frontiers*, was put forward two years ago, following a Green Paper in 1984.

The Cockfield directive envisages:

- the harmonization of technical standards throughout the Community;
- a provision under which 60 per cent of programmes would originate in Britain and other EEC states within three years of the directive coming into law — a clause designed to ensure that American and Australian soap operas do not dominate schedules;
- restrictions on advertising, especially of tobacco products;
- a clause providing that 5 per cent of programmes (rising to 10 per cent within three years) should come from independent producers;
- safeguards for younger viewers, with EEC-wide stan-

dards on sex and violence being portrayed on the small screen.

The proposals are only now being considered by the Council of Ministers.

A variety of objections have arisen from national governments and broadcasting authorities. Today's meeting will be the first of those problems, enabling ministers to "get to grips with the directive at last" in the words of one EEC official.

Because of differences on the issues, some countries would prefer to put their names to a planned Council of Europe convention on television standards. But the 21-member Council of Europe is not an EEC body, and EEC officials insist that controlling television in an era of cross-frontier broadcasting is a vital part of the Community's 1992 programme.

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India's political climate

Gandhi keeps weather eye open for an early election

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Long-range weather forecasts are much in demand in Delhi. The political climate ahead for Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and his Government is certain to depend heavily on the physical weather this year. For if there is a good monsoon, political forecasters agree that the odds will be extremely favourable for Mr Gandhi to go to the polls 14 or 15 months early.

Elections are not due to be held until December 1989 (five years after Mr Gandhi's landslide in December 1984), but a number of signs point to the advantage of going to the country well before then.

First, the opposition is still in disarray. While it is possible they could get into a worse mess over the next year or so, it is at least equally possible that they will begin to hang together and to project themselves as a genuine alternative to Mr Gandhi and his Congress (I) Party.

Secondly, it is becoming increasingly apparent that a new initiative is being mounted to tackle once more India's most troublesome insurgency, the Sikh campaign for an independent Khalistan in the

northern state of Punjab. Thirdly, Mr Gandhi and his Government are on the point of having successfully ridden out the turbulence of the various corruption scandals buffeting his administration.

Finally, the economic situation is unlikely to get better in the next few years, so there is no further advantage to gain.

Only the forthcoming rains can help to make the voters feel better about themselves and their Government. The inadequacy of the past three years' rains, and the virtually total failure of last year's rains, has afflicted the northern and western states with the worst drought in living memory. It has also seriously damaged the economic development of the country, forcing Mr Gandhi to rely even more heavily on foreign aid at a time when the country was breaking out of its cycle of dependence.

A good monsoon will not solve the economic problems, but it will remove the threat of imminent starvation facing the farmers and cattle-herders of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Orissa.

The Janata Party, which provides the nearest national

Communist opposition party, has been behaving responsibly for the past few months. It aligned itself with the Jan Morcha, a campaign led by Mr V.P. Singh, the former Finance Minister, and merged with the faction of the Lok Dal Party led by the son and heir of Chandra Shekhar Singh, the late acknowledged leader of the northern Jats, a powerful agricultural caste.

But now the president of the party, Mr Chandra Shekhar, faces a new election for the job. Last year he tried to step down but there was such confusion over who should succeed him that he stayed on.

This year, the likeliest candidate to succeed him is once again the popular and successful Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde. If Mr Hegde goes into the parliamentary general election as president of the party he will be the unchallengeable candidate for Prime Minister, should the opposition win.

Mr Chandra Shekhar is said to harbour prime ministerial ambitions of his own, despite never having actually served as a minister, and would not like the succession to be as cut

and dried as that. Accordingly, he is putting forward a lesser candidate forward — the Chandhury Ajit Singh, son of the late Jat chieftain.

Mr Chandra Shekhar has the votes in the executive to force the election through. If he does so there are prominent Janata leaders — Mr George Fernandes, the trade union leader, is only one of those whose names are mentioned — who are threatening to leave the party and create even worse confusion.

In Punjab, it is apparent that Mr Gandhi is proposing to open a line of negotiation with the extremists.

There are other signs too. Mr Gandhi is busy consulting a wide variety of opinions on the future of Punjab. He has dissolved the state Assembly which has been suspended for a year, clearing the way for the election of a new class of politician. In case his initiative fails, as many expect it to, he is also preparing new measures to deal with the terrorist threat. A constitutional amendment is to be brought forward allowing him to declare a state of emergency and suspend civil rights in one state, not countrywide.

Italian nuclear jobs protest halts trains



Workers from the nuclear power plant at Montalto di Castro, north of Rome, blocking the railway line to Genoa yesterday.

The 5,000 staff, who also blocked a road near the plant, are worried that a decision by local authorities ordering work on the site to stop because of delays in drawing up security and emergency evacuation

plans will affect their employment.

Work was suspended in December after a national referendum voted against nuclear power. Signor Giovanni Goria, then the Prime Minister, decided to complete the work when experts said it was not feasible to convert the power station but the move brought down his Government.

De Mita attempts to revive coalition

From A Correspondent, Rome

Signor Ciriaco de Mita, chairman of the Christian Democrats, completed a first round of talks yesterday with representatives of other political parties in his attempt to form a government.

The talks will continue today and this week is seen as decisive in the success or failure of forming a government with Signor de Mita as Prime Minister.

The most likely outcome is yet another five-party coalition, including the Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals.

The main problem is the

definition of a government programme that will satisfy all the parties, with particular difficulties surrounding financial and energy policy. The previous Government, led by Signor Giovanni Goria, fell because of its failure to pass financial legislation and when the Socialists pulled out because of its energy stand.

To further complicate matters, there is what politicians are delicately calling "the moral question": the widespread habit of taking kickbacks on government contracts. Three former ministers are under investigation, accused of pocketing the equivalent of several million pounds.

Man in the news

Crisis manager in search of a vision

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Signor Ciriaco de Mita, the designated Prime Minister of Italy last week, has two tasks: to find a government that will not collapse within a few months, and, more grandly, to steer the country towards 1992 and the dream of a united Europe.

Theoretically the term of the government lasts until 1992, a happy coincidence for the European-minded Italian. But, apart from the rule of Signor Bettino Craxi, who led the country from 1983 to 1987, the Italian norm is for governments to last about three seasons; those smiled upon by the usually humourless Roman gods survive two winters. Nowadays at a routine cocktail party you expect to meet at least one man who has served three or more terms as Prime Minister.

It is now Signor de Mita's chance. He is a worried-looking man with a slightly tilted balding head. From Avellino, near Naples (the northerners say he is from "greater Greece"; that is supposed to be rude), he embodies all of the calculating skills but few of the fabled charms of the southerners.

A stretch of the Avellino highway is named after him (since he helped to loosen the funds for its construction) and there is indeed a superficial resemblance: a straight, concrete man who doesn't much like to be overtaken.

Signor de Mita, chairman of the Christian Democrat party, has never been Prime Minister, but he was a competent minister in several Cabinets, a deputy in 1963 and an under-secretary since 1968.

He benefited from the collapse of the old order in the party. Until the mid-1970s one faction was clearly in the ascendant, but the dramatic events of 1978 — the murder of the party chairman, Aldo Moro, the death of two Popes — and the apparent need for new faces, led to a crumbling of command.

New, small factions formed under regional chiefs and a coalition agreed on Signor de Mita as party chairman in 1982. Since then the party has agreed on very little, except the compelling need to stay in power.

Signor de Mita was blamed

for a slip in votes in the 1983 election — from 38 per cent to 34 per cent — but he was able to recapture most of the lost ground in last year's election.

So far, he has been mainly a crisis manager pulling the strings of government — he supplied, for example, Signor Giovanni Goria with his Cabinet list — but not developing new perspectives for the party. The three pillars of the party — Catholicism, clientism (jobs for the boys) and anti-communism are looking shaky.

Signor de Mita, just turned 60, is not of the generation that established such good links with the Vatican as leaders of the Catholic Student Association. In contrast, his great party rival Signor Giulio Andreotti has always been on good terms with the church leadership.

With public sector spending in huge difficulties there is not much cash around for provincial patronage — new roads for example. And Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, has been helping to make communism much cuddlier than before.

Signor de Mita must thus come up with a new vision that will make for strong government and rejuvenate his party, which he will lead until the autumn party congress.

He has discovered Europe, and in the country of Signor Carlo De Benedetti, there are worse discoveries. He wants to start now, synchronizing with Europe and at the same time modernizing the country.

There is one snag. Signor Craxi, leader of the Socialist party, an indispensable political partner, cannot stand Signor de Mita. As in the days of Caesar, personal intervention is enough to destroy the chances of governors.

There are certainly crueler fates than being hated by the likes of Signor Craxi, who suffers neither fools nor, indeed, intellectuals gladly. But has Signor de Mita the skill to outmanoeuvre the Socialists, neutralize his many enemies within the Christian Democratic Party and run a government to grand designs?

In Avellino they think so; in Rome they are, as ever, sceptical.

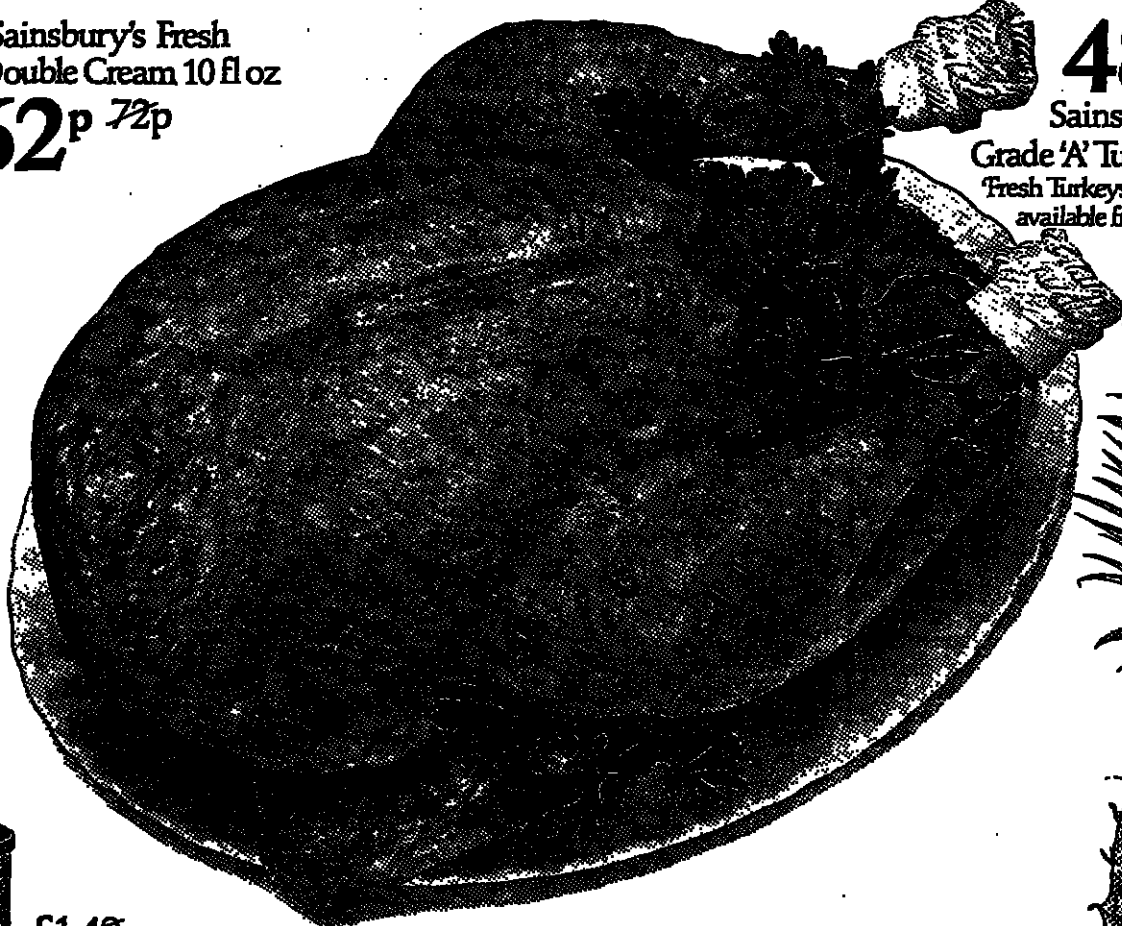


Signor de Mita, who was a minister in several governments, entered the limelight when his party's old order collapsed.

Sainsbury's Easter Parade.



Sainsbury's Fresh Double Cream 10 fl oz 62p 72p

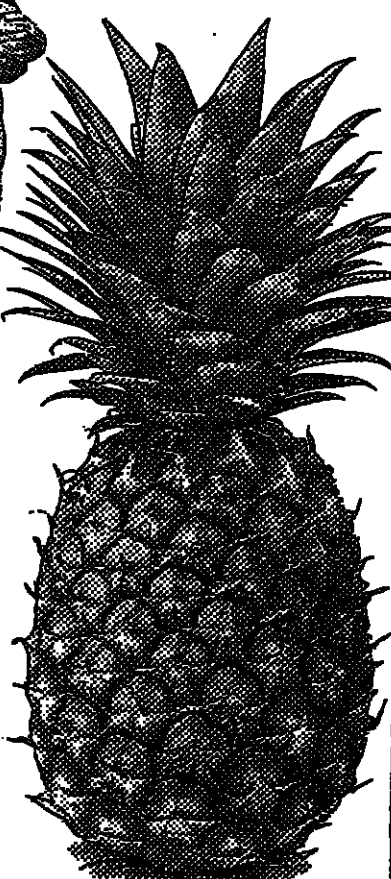
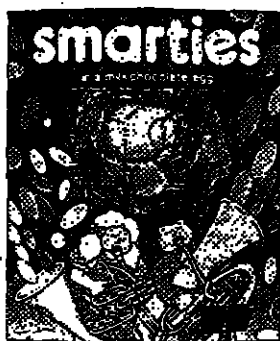


48p per lb Sainsbury's British Grade 'A' Turkey — all weights per lb 'Fresh Turkeys for Easter at other prices will be available from Tuesday 29th March'



£1.49 £1.39 Sainsbury's Red Salmon 212g

75p Rowntrees Smarties Milk Chocolate Egg 115g

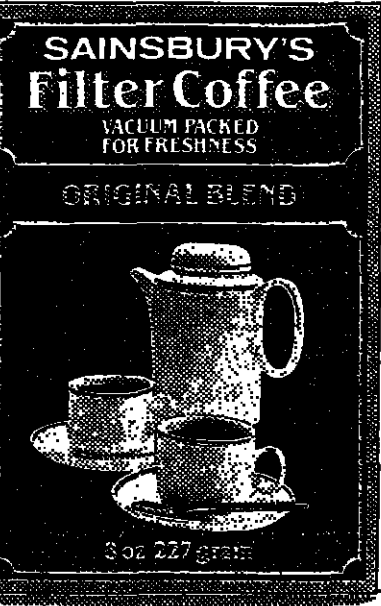


£1.28 98p Sainsbury's Pineapples (Medium) each



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85p Sainsbury's Original Blend Coffee 8oz



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On the road to Robertsbridge

THIS WEEK, MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE WILL BE 85. GEORGE HILL DISCOVERS HOW THE ONE-TIME SCOURGE OF HIS ELDERS IS COMING TO TERMS WITH THE PREDICAMENTS OF OLD AGE

One of Max Beerbohm's best caricatures showed Arnold Bennett old and young. The old novelist, sleek, distinguished and not a little complacent, is confronted by his young self, a scruffy-haired lad in an ill-fitting suit. "All gone according to plan, you see!" says the great man. "My plan," insists the unprepossessing youth.

What would the younger selves of Malcolm Muggeridge say if they could come face to face with the sage of Robertsbridge today? Would they wonder how their plans could conceivably have gone so incalculably astray? The restless gadfly, the iconoclast, the insistently self-confessed rake, the derider of objects of reverence ranging from the socialist new dawn to the English monarchy — what strange route brought him to asceticism, Catholicism and, now, an unmistakable valedictory serenity? And, on the eve of his 85th birthday, are there still more turnings in the road to come?

The old Muggeridge, or perhaps one should say the new one, is convinced that there was a plan, although his earlier selves only had intermittent inklings of it, and sometimes had to be dragged by Providence, kicking and struggling, towards the goal. He has taken time off from the third and final volume of his autobiography to produce a slimmer retrospect about his wrestling with God. *Conversion — A Spiritual Journey*, to be published on Thursday, parades his earlier selves in turn under labels, like Everyman: "The Boy... The Teacher... The Journalist... The Soldier... they are all referred to in the third person.

"I feel a long way from them, in some ways," Muggeridge says, in that inimitable blurt which made so many unkind observations in the past about the new clothes of so many naked emperors.

"I enjoyed writing the book, though I'm afraid it's a diversion from the other, the third volume... I ought to have sat down and locked the door and got on with that. I'm struggling to finish it. If I can do that, you'll hear a loud voice saying: 'Thanks very

much — that's the end'. I think I shall probably die before it finishes, but I have friends who would put it into order, I hope."

He and his wife, Kitty, live in a rainswept cottage five fields outside Robertsbridge, Sussex, down a pot-holed track along which somebody has taken extensive advantage of the grants formerly paid to those who grubbed up hedgerows. Mrs Muggeridge had answered my knock and led me into his study, whispering a warning that his hearing-aids were giving him trouble. He sat turning them over regretfully in his hands as we talked. "It's extraordinary how small they are, wonderful what they can do... but somehow they've got blocked up."

"Can you hear me at all?" I asked in dismay. "No, not at the moment," he promptly replied. After this exchange, we proceeded in ordinary tones.

He is mildly concerned (surprisingly, considering his formidable seclusion) with traffic. As we talk in his low-ceilinged study, crammed with books and pictures, his attention slips easily from the complexities of volume three to the perils of crossing the A21 to the village, and the inactivity of the police in enforcing the speed limit on the lorries which hurtle through towards the coast.

"Everything will be different when the by-pass comes, but I doubt if I'll be among those present when it actually arrives," he says cheerfully. Like Prospero, his every third thought is of his grave. The new book ends with a meditation on death, and in a sense the entire book is just that. There is an irony in the spectacle of a man who in his youth was so relentless a scourge of the follies and weaknesses of his distinguished elders, from C.P. Scott to Ramsay MacDonald, coming to terms with the predicament of old age for himself.

After so many different lives of self-dissatisfaction, as teacher, soldier, journalist and so on, I wondered which aspect of his career was the one on which he looked back with most satisfaction.

"That's a very difficult question. I have a very remarkable



The final metamorphosis: can there be any more turnings in the life of Malcolm Muggeridge, the restless derider of objects of reverence now converted to the Church and asceticism?

wife. Is she around? Shall we call her so that she can join in?" It was, in its way, an answer. I went in search of Mrs Muggeridge, and found her in a corner of a larger room surrounded by papers, a picture of serene industry. She came to our rescue. She is extremely beautiful, with troubled eyes and forehead. With her expressive face and his mug, the two of them could serve as models for a pair of allegorical statues of Sanctity and Vice. They have been married for more than 60 years.

We returned to the subject of the new book. It must remain one of life's mysteries whether all the former Malcolm Muggeridges would be content with the way they have been conscripted by their successor into his account of his spiritual pilgrimage: they are no longer here to object. The book has flashes of the old scathing wit,

though it necessarily covers much familiar ground. It is deeply-felt and often touching. It starts with an account of his reception into the Roman Catholic church in 1982, and ends with an enigma.

The first scene of the book is built round two themes which run right through it: vanity and simplicity. At the quiet ceremony at which he and his wife make their profession of allegiance, the priest in his homily says in passing that it is an event that many Catholics have been praying for. "This, regrettably, stirs up my ego — like a cobra, always ready in all circumstances to lift its head and push out its vicious tongue," comments the self-divided author.

The final lines of the book are surprising. He recalls and echoes a

strange remark — "Christendom is over, but not Christ" — made by Archbishop Fulton Sheen, an Irish-American Catholic prelate who died in 1979. I told Muggeridge that this seemed a curious conclusion for a book about his entry into the Church Militant of Catholicism.

"This Fulton Sheen man, whom I hardly knew except in the vaguest possible way, said would I come along to see him. I went to his flat. He was obviously dying. I think it was something that had come to him quite suddenly and he wanted to make it known."

But what did he understand by it, I wondered. "Well, all the different things which have fallen away..." He brooded, prevaricated. "Do you know that Svetlana stayed here for a week, Stalin's daughter? While we were

making a television film about her."

I praised the film. But what about the end of Christendom? "Well, most of the heads of the Church — churches of all denominations — are agreeing to things being done which deny everything the Bible suggests..."

Mrs Muggeridge broke in: "It says 'Thou shalt not kill', and they're killing unborn babies right and left... There are lesbian nuns... homosexual bishops!"

So did he see his membership of the Catholic Church simply as a matter of the least of evils?

"We've got rid of them all, the denominations. We don't regard ourselves as members of any church. There is a connection between our views and the views of the Catholic Church. It's good to have a relationship with a priest, it's like a teacher — a priest

comes once a month here and celebrates Mass, which is very angelic of him, because it's hard for us to get to the town. But no — we don't regard ourselves as members of any church."

"We say our prayers," Mrs Muggeridge added, with intensity. I trudged through the rain back to the station, to catch one of the Hastings line trains which some publicity man, innocent of a sense of irony, has unfairly labelled "the 1066 Electrics". Muggeridge would have relished that. As I stepped into the main street of Robertsbridge, lined with half-timbered frontages and antique shops, a lorry hurtling on its way to the coast came round the corner and almost sent me unprepared into the next world.

● *Conversion: A Spiritual Journey* by Malcolm Muggeridge is published on Thursday (Collins, £10.95)

Presidential ballyhoo in Britain

As the election race gathers pace, Democrats and Republicans Abroad are busily wooing the expatriate voters

The balloons, the pompoms and the pumpkin pie may be absent, but today the rest of the American electoral razzmatazz comes to town. In the shadow of Westminster Abbey, American Democrats will be voting for the Presidential candidate of their choice in an expatriate primary.

Although there are not enough votes abroad to make a significant impact on November's presidential elections, both parties are operating long distance, in the belief that every vote counts. To that end Democrats Abroad and Republicans Abroad are now geared up to fight a trans-

atlantic election battle over the next eight months.

The voluntary chairmen of the two rival organizations in Britain, John W. Wood for the Democrats and Sally McNulty for the Republicans, don't quite agree on the total number of expatriate votes abroad. The Republicans come up with a worldwide figure of four-and-a-half million. The Democrats believe it is more like two million.

Wood coolly claims 80 per cent of the British vote. "The percentages always work in Republicans' favour," he says. "Take 100 Americans abroad and two thirds of them will be Republicans." McNulty dis-



Americans abroad: Sally McNulty and John W. Wood

putes this: "In the banking and broker community there are a lot of Democrats — and also among yuppies, much to our surprise."

It seems that there is no easy way to add up the number of Americans living in Britain. McNulty says, "will give the Democratic National Committee in Washington valuable

information that can be used in future."

Wood, who is 46, has lived in Britain for 24 years. After "trawling" the constantly changing United States community here to encourage them to register their vote back home (Republicans hold no primary abroad), he lists as a second priority "feeding back" British perspectives on the impact of US policy.

Wood runs RA, which has organizations in 60 countries, from his office just off Oxford Street, where a secretary devotes Fridays to RA business. Membership costs \$10 for students, rising to \$1,000 for the "Ambassadors Club" (with its VIP tour of the White House, connections in Congress, autographed pictures of the President and Vice President). Fund-raising is not a very important aspect of RA activities, Wood says. "From the perspective of the Repu-

lican National Committee, we couldn't raise enough money to be interesting."

McNulty, who is also 46, has been living here for 18 years. She is a life-long Democrat, and runs DA, three children and a career in public relations from her St John's Wood home. DA asks for a \$10 annual fee, to cover postage and a quarterly newsletter. McNulty picks up telephone bills and some other expenses herself.

Joy Billington

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● American Democrats can cast their ballots in person between 8.30am and noon today at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. They will be asked to produce their passports. In the evening there will be an election-night celebration, including the result of the primary (tickets £15).

TOMORROW

About turn on the left: why the leaders of many once hard-line Labour councils are changing over to more moderate policies

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1520

ACROSS									
1 School finance officer (6)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5 German POW camp (6)	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8 Moose (3)	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 Avant-garde (3,3)	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
10 Artificial (6)	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
11 NI (4)	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
12 Malay dance (8)	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
13 Depressed (2,3,8)	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
17 Twelfth Night stew (8)	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
19 Grape widely (4)	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
21 Departs (6)	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
23 Needlewoman's pile (6)									
24 Golf peg (3)									
25 Mean (6)									
26 Bored (6)									

DOWN		
2 Employment (5)	5 Yarn coil (5)	16 Brief inspection (4-3)
3 Crosses story writer (9)	6 Donkey (3)	18 Robustly healthy (3)
4 Withdrew (7)	7 Contrary word (7)	20 Nervous (5)
	13 Rugged up-and-under (9)	22 Army leaders (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1519
ACROSS: 1 Squats 5 Dote 8 Crawl 9 Anti hill 11 Pembroke 13 Form 15 Hemingway 18 Hesp 19 Chandler 22 Premier 23 Coward 24 Ship 25 Embryo
DOWN: 2 Quail 3 All 4 Stalking-horse 5 Date 6 Trilogy 7 Scope 10 Lame 12 Rump 14 Sea 15 Hussain 16 Chop 17 Pride 20 Lowry 21 Wisp 23 Cob

Have collar, moose travel

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Philip Howard

Our new language comes from diverse sources. A specialist North American magazine with a tiny circulation, called *The Wolf Sanctuary Newsletter*, has just coined a word that looks likely to become part of the central core of English within the next few years. Readers of the newsletter, a noble band of lycanthropes, find it useful to keep tabs on their charges, and on moose (elk to Europeans) who might vamoose or get eaten by the wolves. In some parks and reserves they have started equipping the moose with bracelets that carry tiny radio transmitters, so that they can keep track of where they are, even if they are in the black dark, half way down a wolf's throat. The editor of the newsletter reports that these moose are being "radio-collared".

This is a neat, obvious, and descriptive coinage; but not a lot of use to most of us, who can go for years without knowing one end of a moose from the other. If you should meet a moose informally, avoid both ends, but particularly the end equipped with palmate horns like horizontal circular saws. In the States the phrase has been picked up by those who want to keep tabs on humans rather than moose. Because of the overcrowding in prisons, many states are experimenting with the notion of house arrest as an alternative to sending minor offenders to jails, which are wolfpits and universities in crime.

Until now the difficulty has been the army of law officers needed to police the

widely dispersed homes of the convicts to make sure that they are not abroad after curfew. But modern technology has made real the two-way wrist radio of the cartoon hero Dick Tracy. You can fasten a bracelet with a radio transmitter onto somebody, and connect it to various telephonic and electronic machinery, so that if the wearer wanders outside a designated area, such as his or her house, he trips alarms and broadcasts his breach of house arrest to the police or his probation officer, or wherever you want to instal the alarm.

There have been teething troubles with the system in the States. The young are good at Space Invaders and other more sophisticated electronics: some young hackers have managed to fiddle with their bracelets so as to muffle the alarm. Others have triggered the alarm merely by turning over in bed. But if technology advances as fast as it usually does, very soon the system will be much more secure.

The nomenclature like the technology is so new that it is still in a state of flux. It took Newtonian physics nearly a century to settle its jargon. But radio-collar from *The Wolf Sanctuary Newsletter* is the

front runner at present as the new word for the system. The British Government is considering introducing electronic tagging as a component of a non-custodial sentence, as it should. If it does, radio-collaring and to radio-collar are far more vivid and self-evident phrases than electronic tagging. I bet you that within 10 years radio-collar is as familiar a term in our vocabulary as dear old Breathalysers, open prisons, and the rest of them.

Crime and punishment have been fertile sources of language ever since men stopped living like wolves and started to live in society. Captain Francis Grose's *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, first published in 1785, the first serious slang dictionary, contains mostly words describing sex, crime and punishment. Consider the number of slang words for prison: choky, quod, pokey, booty-hatch, hoosegow, nick, jug, coop, cooler, can, clink, calaboose, brig, slammer, the big house, pen, stir, college, porridge, and dozens more.

Slang is the poetry of the criminal classes. It also serves as a euphemism to hide the shameful and ghastly official term, and as a private code between the criminal cognoscenti. As soon as outsiders crack the code, insiders move on to a new word. If radio-collar becomes the official term, those who are radio-collared will at once invent a friendlier informal name: Maggie's necklace, moosecollar, wolfwear? Your guess is as good as mine.

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TIMES DIARY

BARBARA AMIEL

I finally went to see the exhibition of 80 painters who studied at the Royal College of Art and found it profoundly depressing. So many of the painters seemed to start off in their student days with something to say and then collapsed into the most dead-end alleys of Modernism. The proverbial child really did turn up next to me in front of Harry Thubron's collage of corrugated cardboard. "I could do that," exclaimed the little boy. His father wisely pointed to Thubron's expert pencil drawing of an infant and cautioned: "Ah, but he did that too." The child was silenced.

But why on earth did so many of the students move into some arid offshoot of Abstract Expressionism or Conceptualism, all just one great runny blob of paint or geometric puzzles on the canvas? My theory is that the decline of art since the Great Masters seems to have something to do with the increased interest of artists in themselves, rather than in their subjects. This is not the philistine complaint that "you can't recognize a cow any more". It is rather a failure to heed Stanislavsky's great dictum: look for the art in yourself, not for yourself in art. After all, the mythological figures and fantasies of a da Vinci grotesque or a Bartholomew Spranger satyr have little to do with realism. But there is a humility in the Old Masters lacking in contemporary art: a concern for the subject, a distancing from the narcissism of the artist. To some extent, of course, this is all a matter of taste and temperament, but just how far can this separate-but-equal status of tastes extend?

I agonized about how to dress myself up for the very smart opening and dinner of Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza's Old Masters exhibition at the Royal Academy. Finally, after trying on all my rhinestones and cubic zircons, I decided the only way to survive the glitter was to go clear, as the pop singer Leonard Cohen says. It was a wise decision. As I gazed at Baroness Thyssen's jewellery, I realized why certain African tribes stretch their earlobes to indicate status. The baroness is extremely pretty but her earlobes must have muscles of steel in them to hold up the Brazil-nut-sized diamonds and rubies she sported. Even the baron had on a necklace, which turned out to be a medal given to him by the Academy of San Fernando in Madrid, which is the Spanish equivalent of the Royal Academy. Very shrewd of him too, I thought, as the baron decides which country will be the beneficiary of his great collection. Surely we have an Order or medal lying about?

BARRY FANTONI



'Completion by the 1990s? Perhaps they should impose some sort of fine'

The Sharpeville six have got a stay of execution for a month and I hope that executive clemency will follow. I never had much sympathy for convicting people of murder on grounds of "common purpose", but nothing drove home the problem quite as vividly as watching the funeral mob murder the two British soldiers last weekend. The entire brutal display makes it easy to brand every one of them a murderer, and I can well imagine that terrifying atmosphere to be the one in which the black township mayor was lynched in South Africa.

Still, wise people, I think, have always recognized the peculiar psychological state that takes over when people are caught up in the emotional eddies of a mob. It seems like a sort of drunkenness that intoxicates and blunts the ability to think. It is this dulling of the senses that is taken into account when drunkenness reduces murder to manslaughter. Murder is an offence that requires specific intent in law, and the general intent that propels a massed group of rioters should not be sufficient to prove personal guilt. Of course, it would be all too easy for individuals to commit the most horrific acts in a mob situation that they might have deliberately whipped up for themselves, but that may be a risk we have to run. For such people the defence of mob violence would not be available if it could be proved they were the perpetrators of the bedlam.

To confirm Gore Vidal's worst fears: At dinner last Sunday night, Mr Simcha Dinitz, formerly the Israeli ambassador to Washington and now chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization, was reminiscing about the confused perceptions of his job. During his tenure in Washington he recalled being summoned at 11pm to the Pentagon by a worried James Schlesinger, then Defence Secretary, who was deeply concerned about Jewish reaction to remarks made by the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff, General Brown, during an off-the-record speech.

The remarks, that Jews controlled the American media, industry and banks, had been leaked to the press and the next day's newspapers were headlining them. Could Mr Dinitz please make sure that Jewish reaction to this was muted, since the chairman really didn't mean what he said, was definitely a friend of Israel's and the Administration didn't want to have to fire him.

Mr Dinitz explained that he had no special influence over American Jewry. But as instructed he went back to his embassy and sent out a telex to the eight Israeli consulates in the US. The telex read: "Tomorrow, you will read in *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* that Jews control the media, industry and banks. Deny, but not too vehemently."

The prophesy of the electricians' leader, Eric Hammond, that the trade union movement "ain't seen nothing yet" in the advance of single-union, strike-free deals in the wake of the "Dundee débacle" Hammond's union, the EETPU, yesterday announced it had signed yet another such deal, with the American company Chronar.

Ford's decision to cancel its £40 million technology plant at Dundee struck trade unionism a body blow. If the TUC does not lose any of its affiliates after the electricians' latest agreement, its General Secretary, Norman Willis, might feel justified in repeating the claim of a former president of the American trade unions: "My major achievement was to keep these monkeys together."

Ron Todd, the leader of Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers' believes he is championing the cause of the workers in effectively blocking any chances of Ford reconsidering its decision. Notwithstanding that up to 1,500 jobs have been lost in a city with 15 per cent unemployment, he is adamant that the issue at stake is not single-union

Roland Rudd on TUC hopes of outflanking its rebellious members

Lines drawn for union war

agreements but clear breaches of Ford's blue-book agreement governing relations between management and the unions.

Gavin Laird, who flew to America last September to make the deal for the Amalgamated Engineering Union, dismisses Todd's argument. The battle facing the unions now, he says, is not about "promoting narrow sectarian interests" or lengthy arguments about "wages in the blue book which are not applicable to Dundee" but how to combat unemployment and the decline in union membership.

The decline in membership continues unabated in the absence of any firm collective action to arrest it. In the words of one union official: "The TUC carthorse is at a standstill." To get it moving again, Todd, with other union leaders who opposed Ford's deal with the engineering union, believes the

TUC should apply strict guidelines for unions wishing to sign such agreements. They have drawn up draft proposals which originate in America.

They want to overhaul the existing Bridlington rules governing inter-union disputes, and insert a new code of conduct which would force a union in conflict with others over a single-union deal to consult the TUC, which would decide whether the deal could proceed.

Bill Jordan, the AEU president, has made it clear that his union could not accept such a code, which he believes would have prevented it from signing the doomed deal with Ford. Perhaps this explains its popularity with the majority of trade union leaders.

Opinion in the TUC is moving towards the US concept of designated organizing areas, which would enable one union to

have for a year the sole negotiating rights in certain companies. Jordan has warned that such a scheme would favour large unions which give assurances not to sign binding arbitration agreements.

It is worth noting that the US equivalent of the TUC, the American Federation of Labour and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), does not even mention the issue of single-union or no-strike deals in its recent literature. American union leaders believe their prime enemy is non-unionism.

But if the TUC continues to embrace what Jordan calls the "unacceptable face of trade unionism" what then? The engineers' decision could be made for them.

Hammond's Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union is under threat of suspension at the TUC Gen-

eral Council meeting tomorrow. Its crime is that it broke TUC directives, which it admits, through its involvement with News International during the move to Wapping, east London.

"A non-issue outside London. Kept alive by the organs of the left like the *Morning Star*", says Jordan. "Why the people should want to take revenge on a union for a battle which has been lost to an employer is beyond me. It would quite rightly be misread by the public, who would interpret it as proof that the unions were more interested in fighting a vendetta among themselves than in gaining membership."

Willis is desperately fighting a rear-guard action to prevent the suspension of the electricians. He does not believe that the Wapping controversy merits a split TUC. Eric Hammond believes the threatened suspension

is more to do with preventing his union from signing further single-union, strike-free agreements than anything that happened at Wapping.

The electricians won their new deal with Chronar at Port Talbot, South Wales, for the same reason that the engineers won the proposed deal in Dundee. They believe the existing union structure is "unwieldy, inefficient, conducive to inter-union warfare and irrelevant to the needs of the company". But the deal could push the union over the brink. If it is suspended it will ballot its members on whether to leave the TUC. The membership is likely to vote to leave the Congress for good; the engineers would then ballot their members on leaving the TUC.

A decision to go with the electricians would expose the union to vigorous competition from the rest of the movement. It would be the start of an inter-union war, which Jim Thomas, the national organizer of the left-wing Manufacturing Science and Finance union, believes the TUC would win. But that is a risk which both Jordan and Hammond are willing to take if the TUC continues down its present path.

T.E. Utley

The practical politics of grief

A terrible crime happens in Ulster. As night follows day, there are predictable reactions to it - political, ecclesiastical and journalistic. Nothing changes; they are always precisely the same.

Ministers and churchmen condemn whatever this latest example of human depravity may be. They say that it is the work of psychopaths - which is not usually the case, for most of the crimes are the product of clinical calculation. It is also not very useful to say this, since attributing wickedness to mental disorder is unwittingly to provide some justification for it, or at any rate to encourage the impression that there is nothing rational and practical which can be done to combat it.

The next reaction is to say that "we must keep our heads" and not act under the influence of instant anger. This again is deeply misleading. Everyone, of course, at all times, should keep his head, and anger should never be the sole motive for human actions. Yet there are politically desirable things to be done which are politically possible only when public opinion has been shocked into intense anger by some unusually horrific event. So it was after the Enniskillen murders on Armistice Day. The Government missed the chance, as it has missed several others in the course of the present troubles.

It is next said that there can be no military solution to the "problem" of Ulster. There must, on the contrary, be a political solution; but this also is a load of bunkum - for what is politics? The classic definition of it is that it is the science of the application of public force. Just as there is no military victory in human history which has been achieved purely by force, so there is no political event in human history which has come about by actions from which force or the threat of it has been wholly absent.

We are also told that we must not make martyrs (martyrs are

less easily made than is commonly supposed, nor in Ireland does one have to die in order to enter folklore; however, a dead or incarcerated martyr is often a good deal safer than a living and free one). Above all, we are exhorted not to reduce ourselves to the same moral level as the terrorists. This is wise but also confusing advice.

Acts of sheer brutality (such as those perpetrated against two British soldiers last Saturday) would be just as evil had they been perpetrated by the representatives of lawful authority. But if society is to be preserved at all, the distinction between lawfully authorized force and illicit violence must be kept sacred. Much of what is written and said about Ulster today tends, either by deliberate calculation or through stupidity, to blur that distinction. If the battle for hearts and minds in Ulster is eventually lost, much of the blame will rest with the dedication of politicians, clergymen and journalists to ill-considered clichés.

What in reality is now needed is a fundamental or, to use a more fashionable word, a "radical" revision of British policy there. The premise of that revision must surely be that what we are concerned with is a ruthless attempt by a revolutionary junta to sever the six counties from the United Kingdom as a prelude to pursuing wider purposes on both sides of the border. The question is what is the most efficient and expeditious way of defeating this junta.

It is certainly true that last Saturday's descent into savagery cannot wholly be described as the result of a calculated plan by the IRA. It is, as many commentators have pointed out, a sobering thought that the crowd which lynched two British soldiers, or stood by and did not applaud, did not necessarily consist entirely of fully paid-up members of the IRA.

That there is a streak of cruelty in the Irish nationalist tradition



is a simple fact of history; but there is a good deal of cruelty in many people. Saturday's proceedings were a characteristic example of mob violence which could be paralleled in many countries and at many times. The question is who organized the mob, who has done everything possible to stimulate the kind of feelings of hatred which prompted it to its crime, who puts pressure on nationalists to

go to such funerals, who deliberately designs such funerals as political demonstrations?

The answer is the IRA and provisional Sinn Féin, which is to be distinguished from the IRA only by an act of casuistry invented by a feeble British government and an over-sophisticated Northern Ireland Secretary, Mervyn Rees.

Yet what has been done to

curb the activities of Sinn Féin? For ages, the British Government has been considering in concert with Dublin measures to stop this body from acting as a PR agent for a criminal organization and being allowed constantly to foster violence.

Nothing has come of these negotiations. Only last week the plan tentatively advanced in October to prevent Sinn Féin candidates from standing for

local elections unless they repudiated support for proscribed organizations was put into cold storage. Internment, the simplest and most direct weapon against the IRA and its auxiliaries, has been simply excluded on two false grounds - first that it has been tried and failed and, second, that it would not work unless the Irish Republic also reintroduced it. The first is false because internment was never tried for long enough, with enough determination or with the back-up of adequate intelligence-information. As for the second, it would be obviously advantageous to have internment brought back in the republic, but it would be better to have it without the republic than to go on not having it at all.

I am not much concerned with the tactical question of whether it is better to run the risk of policing paramilitary funerals or to run the risk of not doing so. Both risks are severe. But should the world be allowed to watch such funerals on the television? They are demonstrations of power. They are designed to show not so much that the IRA's cause is just as that cause will inevitably prevail. In the last analysis, this is the best shot in the IRA's locker, and the IRA knows it.

All this is, of course, to ask the British Government to abandon most of the shibboleths on which British policy in Ulster has been based for 20 years. It is to ask it to abandon the "primacy of the police" in favour of recognizing that what we are concerned with is primarily a military action against subversion; it is to ask it to brave world opinion and the "chattering classes"; and it is to ask it to recognize that the Irish Republic is an extremely shaky edifice at least as dependent on us as we are on it.

In short, it is to ask for the "politically impossible", a commodity which could be supplied only by Mrs Thatcher, and which Mr Tom King did certainly not supply in the Commons yesterday.

Commentary • BEN PIMLOTT

Socialist dawn?

The shrillness of government attacks on the Labour Party in the wake of Mr Lawson's immoral and short-sighted Budget is interesting. As minister tumbles over minister to outdo the other in reactionary radicalism, there is a nagging doubt. When will the climax be reached? Where will it all end?

Last week there was a campaign of vilification against Labour on the part of senior Conservative politicians. The particular target was Neil Kinnock who, said Mr Baker, sat on his hands during the Budget debate while his left-wing backbenchers went on the rampage. "On the rampage" is tabloid-talk for what undisciplined football fans are apt to do, and this metaphor provided the idiom for other speeches. The party chairman, Peter Brooke, denounced the Opposition as "the mob on the terrace". John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, declared Tory determination to eliminate "soccer hooligan socialism" while Norman Tebbit condemned the Labour leader for failing to control the "yobbo left wing" of his party.

Mr Dinitz explained that he had no special influence over American Jewry. But as instructed he went back to his embassy and sent out a telex to the eight Israeli consulates in the US. The telex read: "Tomorrow, you will read in *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* that Jews control the media, industry and banks. Deny, but not too vehemently."

So what is going on? On the one hand we have a Cabinet full of ministers still apparently riding high on the tide of history. On the other, a chastened, electorally unpopular Opposition desperately trying to make itself respectable. Why then do ministers, right up to the premier, feel the need to mouth this kind of repetitive and undignified abuse?

In the past, securely placed governments have felt it wise to ignore the Opposition altogether. The decibel level of the Tory attacks on the Opposition at this early stage in a Parliament is yet another symptom of the Government's oddness - and also of the curious sense it continually conveys of walking on water. So far, everything has gone well for it politically. Yet there remains an unreal quality to the performance.

There is a difficulty of presentation. Previously, Thatcherism could portray itself as resistant and reactive. There were unions to be thrashed, left-wing authorities to be annihilated. Now the war has become expansionary and the dynamics of aggressive reform require something to attack. The Prime Minister last weekend evoked the terrifying spectre of battalions of "professional progressives" among broadcasters, social workers and politicians. Yet it is unlikely that many people are convinced. Hence the need to build up Labour as a bogey.

But it would be wrong to construe the assault as merely symbolic. It also contains a real message. For Labour's humiliations are far from over, the Opposition's long-term prospects have certainly improved. Last weekend's Mori poll re-

inforced an image of electoral opinion which suggests, dramatically, the return of the two-party system. Local by-election results indicate the chances of a centre-party revival remain. Still, it now seems more likely than at any time since the foundation of the SDP in 1981 that a loss of Tory popularity will bring direct advantages to Labour.

Governments normally do not run into trouble until their second year. Year one of Mrs Thatcher's third term is not yet complete. Nevertheless, the seeds of a future decline in Conservative support have already been well sown. First the regressive poll tax, and now the more readily understood Budget are regarded - according to opinion surveys - as deeply unfair. Measure by measure, this gambling administration increases the risk of a sudden change in mood, a shudder of national revulsion.

Last week one newspaper ran two stories side by side. The first was about a senior nursing sister, an able, dedicated woman of high qualifications who, with an income of around £12,000, would barely benefit from the Budget. The other concerned a woman in her 20s who worked as a middle-ranking employee for some City firm. Her take home pay of £60,000 will increase by £6,000. She would be able to buy new curtains, she said.

On Saturday, the Prime Minister called the creation of this kind of imbalance "the epitaph of socialism". Others may yet see it as a new beginning.

The author is Professor of Politics and Contemporary History, Birkbeck College, London University.

SCIENCE REPORT

Rogue gene

One of the genes responsible for Down's syndrome, once commonly called mongolism, seems to have been identified by a group of researchers at the University of Toronto. Writing in the current (March 11) issue of the *US Journal of Science*, the team of eight geneticists says its research has located the gene responsible for half of the protein molecule called S100 on human chromosome 21.

The development is significant because it has been known since the first studies of human chromosome abnormalities in the 1950s that most children born with Down's syndrome carry three rather than two copies of chromosome 21 in all their cells.

Although a congenital disease, Down's syndrome is not inheritable in the usual sense but is rather a consequence of abnormalities in the formation of the gene cells. This explains the well known increase of the risk of the disease (on average, one in 800 live births) with increasing maternal age.

The Toronto group (with the collaboration of two paediatricians at the University of California, San Francisco) notes that two other genes implicated in Down's syndrome have already been located on chromosome 21.

One of these, the gene that directs the synthesis of the protein known as amyloid beta-protein, is especially significant. An abnormal variant of this gene is inherited by people in whom Alzheimer's disease, a con-



John Lawson

dition whose symptoms include mental confusion, develops at an unusually early age; the brains of Down's syndrome patients are found post mortem to have under-gone changes similar to those of Alzheimer's disease. The other gene on chromosome 21 linked with Down's syndrome is known merely by a code; its function is not yet known.

The protein S100 may, like amyloid beta-protein, be crucial for the normal functioning of nerve cells. The protein is known to be present in large amounts in nerve tissue, where its function seems to be to bind with calcium atoms, themselves known to have an important role in the regulation of nerve cells.

One side-benefit of the new development may be to redirect attention towards the protein S100, whose precise role in nerve cells remains

obscure. In reality, S100 consists of two protein parts, called alpha and beta; the gene for the second component has now been located on chromosome 21, but the location of the gene for the alpha component is for the time being unknown.

Interestingly, the newly located gene lies on the longer of the two arms of the asymmetrical chromosome 21, precisely in a region known as q22. There are some patients born with the characteristic Down's facial features, together with mental retardation and heart defects, who appear to owe their condition to the presence in each of their cells of three copies of just this region of chromosome 21, often because it has been abnormally inserted into some quite different chromosome.

As it stands, this discovery has no bearing on the treatment or management of patients with Down's syndrome, but the Toronto group says that further studies should throw light on the mechanisms by which affected patients acquire their disabilities. It also seems that several genes, some not yet identified, are involved in the condition.

The authors also say that their research illustrates the benefits that would flow if there were a complete genetic map of all the human chromosomes - a project now being given close attention in the United States, Japan and Western Europe.

JOHN MADDOX

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1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

SENSE AND SENSITIVITY

During yesterday's exchanges in the House of Commons there was a good deal of talk about the "sensitivity" required in the policing of funerals liable to attract republican followings or to be used as occasions for paramilitary displays by the IRA. This continued a theme that had been heard last week too.

There is inevitably sensitivity towards the mourning friends and relations of the dead. There is every reason to respect the wishes of those who wish to perform a normal act of worship. But a funeral in West Belfast which provides the setting for public torture and murder must push finer feelings aside.

Such funerals have now been taken over by people whose sensitivities have nothing whatever to do with worship. On Saturday afternoon some people in the mob which murdered the two soldiers had probably just attended a church service, but it seemed to have had very little effect on their willingness to act with barbaric cruelty.

There are other sensitivities. There are those of the friends and relations of the dead soldiers. There are those of the law-abiding majorities in both communities which have seen — twice in a week — unprecedented violations of limits previously thought to have been sacred.

The attack on the crowd at Milltown and the daylight nightmare of the lynch mob set new levels even for two decades of communal violence and terrorism in Northern Ireland. The psychological effect on the population at large should not be neglected: the citizens of Northern Ireland require some reassurance that this is not the beginning of a still more terrible phase in their grim recent history.

The response to these events by the security forces must, therefore, not only be made but be seen to be made. First, the investigation into the murders on Saturday should be prosecuted to the limits. A huge amount of evidence is available — despite the IRA's attempts to frighten those present into silence. Protection, however expensive, should be available to witnesses if required. If there was ever a moment for the Republic to demonstrate full-hearted and practical support of the Anglo-Irish Agreement this is it. Woe betide the Agreement should information or assistance be withheld or delayed.

Secondly, such funerals cannot continue. The police must require a funeral to be a funeral in the normal sense of the word. More is required than that violence and paramilitary stunts be avoided. It ought not to be

the policing that needs to be changed. But, if it is, then the change should be to "saturation" policing — necessarily involving the Army — which would be unapologetically forceful and intrusive.

The Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary is equipped with a recently updated battery of legal powers to pre-empt the risk of disorder at marches and demonstrations. Republican funerals fall well within that category. One option is for these powers to be used to exclude any possibility of IRA publicity stunts, violence (internally or externally generated) or of a crowd gathering at all. If this is impractical for any reason, a large security presence is essential. It is quite possible that both these options may need to be combined.

This does not constitute an argument for any change in the broad policy of "police primacy" — the doctrine under which many of the functions and operating areas formally covered by the Army have been taken over by the RUC. It has always been well understood that there are exceptions to this. During the funerals of the hunger strikers in 1981, the Army was largely in the background save for the particular task of arresting IRA members planning displays. Such operations will always increase the risk of wider public disturbance; in the light of recent atrocities, this must be judged an acceptable level of risk.

A familiar chorus has been heard in the past week. Security, it runs, is not everything; there must be political movement and dialogue in the hope of an eventual solution. Apart from the occasions when this is simply used as a coded appeal for Britain to accede to IRA demands and to abandon its responsibilities, this is unexceptionable — as far as it goes. It does not, of course, go any distance at all towards calming the most acute anxieties of the moment. Those are best met by the open and vigorous defence of the law — by the use of the necessary force.

There has, of course, hardly been a month during the last 20 years when British governments have not been making some attempt, however unsuccessful, to create constructive political dialogue inside the province. But the many people inside Northern Ireland who welcome such ideas also want some sense of proportion in the priorities of a government which professes them — some sensitivity, indeed, to their feelings.

GERMAN OPPOSITION

In view of the chaotic appearance which West Germany's coalition government has presented over the past few months, the Christian Democrats should be well pleased to have held on to their absolute majority in the Baden-Württemberg elections, even with a somewhat reduced vote. Partly this was due to the successful economic policy of the local chief minister, Herr Lothar Späth. It is also testimony to the continued inability of the opposition Social Democrats to be a credible alternative.

Although the ruling coalition has proved unable to lift the economy out of stagnation, or to check the country's slowly rising unemployment, the voters do not think that the Social Democrats could do any better. The party's economic statements have the blowy aura of thoughts that have long since lost their virtue.

Even more damaging has been its close links to old allies in the trades unions. These have not only lost membership along with the old working class. They have lost badly in popularity too, thanks to their call for a reduction of the working week to 35 hours without cuts in pay. They claim that this would reduce unemployment — a claim that has rightly been seen as absurd by most West Germans.

In a speech two weeks ago, Herr Oskar Lafontaine, chief minister of Saarland and the Social Democrat rising star, set off a fierce controversy within his party when he said that, if unemployment is to be reduced, cuts in working hours must be accompanied by selective cuts in pay. He implied that trade unions too must accept a measure of responsibility for the unemployed.

This stand, seemingly so self-evident and yet so difficult for many on the Left to comprehend, is one which would be welcome elsewhere in Europe. It has won Herr

Lafontaine much acclaim in West Germany. It may even bring closer the day when the Social Democrats could prise the Liberals out of the present Bonn coalition and restore the social-liberal coalition of Herr Willy Brandt and Herr Helmut Schmidt. But judging by the immoderate attacks on Herr Lafontaine from many members of his own party, that day is still a good way off.

Another factor in preventing the Social Democrats from moving back towards the centre is the Greens. Although their growth has come to a halt, partly because many of them are not very interested in holding political power, their existence makes it impossible for the Social Democrats even to dream of getting back to Bonn on their own. Caught between the pull of a possible new coalition with the Liberals, and the certainty that this would bring the defection of most of their radical wing to the Greens, the Social Democrats have appeared paralysed.

While the opposition is so impotent, the coalition is increasingly ruling only for want of anything better. Its constituent parties are divided on everything from South Africa to subsidies for dockyards. They have lost credit too by their attachments to economic interest groups — the Bavarian Christian Socialists to the bulging farmers, the Liberals to the extraordinarily greedy alliance of doctors, dentists and drug manufacturers who have been trying to frustrate reform of the health service.

This grubbing for sectional advantage has made nonsense of the Government's policy on much needed tax reform. Since tax reform is an essential part of any strategy to revive the West German economy, so important to that of Europe and the world as a whole, it is greatly to be hoped that Chancellor Kohl will restore discipline to his ranks.

Young offenders

From Mr Maurice Logan-Salton
Sir, Unless it is amended to exclude 14-year-old boys from liability to the new "young offender institutions" the Criminal Justice Bill will promote a notable piece of sex discrimination. At present, the Government proposes a minimum age of 15 for girls and 14 for boys. This is because about 500 14-year-old boys each year are still sent to the junior detention centres which the new Act will abolish.

According to the Home Office such provision is necessary because there is a "small number of 14-year-old boys for whom there is no alternative to custody".

As no such "small number of 14-year-old boys" is deemed to exist anywhere else in Western Europe, and therefore no similar custodial facilities are sought, may one enquire why such a group should be assumed to exist in England and Wales? In those counties which prefer a cost-effective, constructive approach alternatives are already found for all boys of that age.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE LOGAN-SALTON,
43 Falmouth Road,
Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Tyne and Wear.
March 22.

Vanishing breed

From Mr D. M. Speed
Sir, Your correspondent (March 16) who remonstrated with an urban visitor for pillaging primroses might have gone further. The intentional uprooting of any wild plant by an unauthorised person is an offence. The maximum penalty is a fine of £1,000 per plant.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SPEED,
Clerk to the Justices,
Wigan Magistrates' Court,
35 Millgate, Wigan, Lancashire.

True to form?

From Mr J. H. Ling
Sir, During a recent visit abroad, I was discussing the perceived view of Britain, and in particular industrial relations.

My new acquaintance observed: "Your British working man," he said, "Put him in the Army and he will fight to the death for his country. Put him in a trade union and he will fight his country to the death".

I suppose it is all a question of leadership, or lack of it.
Yours faithfully,
J. H. LING,
4 Victoria Road,
Great Malvern, Worcestershire.

Ancient heritage

From Mr P. Osborne
Sir, Whilst sympathising with Lady Bowyer-Smyth (March 10) over the traffic in Fordwich, one suspects that the volume of river-borne imports needed to service the city of Canterbury and its two great monastic houses made this little borough anything but quiet and peaceful in the Middle Ages. Furthermore, the presence of a "squire" and "monks in charge of the quays" which she feels to be an improvement on today's local government were, in the Middle Ages, fact for considerable unrest.

An examination of the fifteenth-century material in the municipal archive shows that relations between the Abbot of St Augustine's, and the townsfolk were often far from harmonious, while the presence of monks from the rival houses of Christ Church and St Augustine's on the quayside led to angry scenes, notably in the 1280s, when Christ Church's warehouse and its contents were thrown into the river by the abbot's men.

Yours faithfully,
PETER OSBORNE,
29 Old Dover Road,
Canterbury,
Kent.
March 13.

A Budget to stir consciences

From Mr Sydney Shenton
Sir, The impact and implications of the new Finance Act will be beginning to stir the conscience of many. It says much for the cohesive strengths of our society, to say nothing of the powers of a prime minister and Government with a substantial parliamentary majority, that we are going to have such an unpopular and inequitable measure imposed upon us.

With such real and boasted success in our financial situation it would have been much more in accord with our national characteristics to have shown greater magnanimity across the board and, employing traditional Conservative paternal instincts, to have been much more generous to the deprived and less affluent.

Some apologists, beneficiaries no doubt, say the poor are not becoming poorer, even if the rich are becoming much richer, a process, it is said, which will ultimately benefit everyone. When this supply-side, trickle-down theory is examined, however, there is little evidence of the realisation of prosperity for the lowly paid nor of increase in productive investment.

One element of this current nostrum is the view that the poor need the spur of their own poverty. We are also told that we need to stimulate incentives for

our invaluable leaders and entrepreneurs, and significant tax concessions will obviate the need for inflation of gross earnings.

Some professionals need more encouragement than others, and for those with the ability to influence their gross earnings it can only mean they will be able to have it both ways.

When the weak and faulty economic case is added to the utterly reprehensible moral effects one wonders how such distasteful and reactionary legislation can be enacted in a supposedly free parliamentary democracy such as ours.

Whilst opposition weakness is an obvious factor, surely, despite party disciplines and loyalty, individual members have both a right and duty to vote as their intelligence and conscience dictate. Insistence on modification of the top rate down to 50 per cent for the time being would make much sense.

Meanwhile it is appropriate to remind ourselves and the Prime Minister of her words in 1979, that the mission is much more than economic progress; it is to renew the spirit and solidarity of the nation.

Sincerely,
SYDNEY SHENTON,
95 The Crescent,
Davenport, Stockport, Cheshire.
March 18.

Community charge

From Dr D. J. Roaf

Sir, Mrs Thatcher told the Conservative local government conference recently that the poll tax will increase accountability because rises in the tax can only be because of extravagance or inefficiency by the local council. In fact there could be at least one other reason (apart from changes due to movement in balances). This would be the need for an increase to compensate for the effect of cuts in Government grant.

One example, drawn from my experience with the Thames Valley Police Authority, may be used to illustrate this. In 1986-87 that force spent virtually in line with the Government's assessment of need (the grant-related expenditure assessment), but in 1987-88 it is "overspending" by 12.3 per cent.

The reason for this surprising turnaround is that the Department of the Environment is now basing police "need" on uniformed establishment only. Therefore police forces which have followed Home Office advice to "civilianise" have lower GREs. This raised the cost to Oxfordshire ratepayers (a constituent of the Thames Valley) of the same level of service by about 25 per cent, because of lost grant.

If poll tax had been in operation then that tax would have had to rise by about 40 per cent because of the way the new system will operate. The alternative would have been for the police authority to cut spending — but the Home Office believes the present spending level is reasonable!

It may be said that the new grant system will avoid such absurdities by being fair, simple and stable. Exactly similar promises were made when the present system was introduced eight years ago. If

the new system can have all these simultaneously, then the present system could be given them now. Yours faithfully,
DERMOT ROAF (Chairman, Local Government Finance Committee),
Association of County Councils,
Eaton Square,
66a Eaton Square, SW1.
March 8.

From Councillor Dr J. M. Hamilton and others

Sir, Dr Keith Hampson, in his article (March 2) on the community charge, makes free use of figures prepared by the Labour council in Leeds. These appear to show how many voters will pay more with the proposed charge than at present. What these statistics ignore is that housing and other benefits will greatly reduce the number of "losers". Those who remain will be in a position to pay their proper share of the cost of local services.

More importantly, Dr Hampson forgets that a revaluation of domestic rates is now well overdue. Many who he claims will be disadvantaged by the community charge would in fact be far harder hit by up-to-date valuations. This would certainly apply to West Park and especially to the pleasant country town of Oley.

Consequently, while there may be a case for altering the funding of the education service as he suggests, it is not necessary to do so in order to justify the community charge as a fair tax. Indeed the Government is to be congratulated on having the firmness of purpose to tackle the unjust rating system root and branch — a task shirked by all their predecessors. Yours truly,
J. M. HAMILTON,
S. M. GILL,
A. J. A. LODGE,
Overtrees, Fox Hill Grove,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Abortion reform

From Dr C. B. Goodhart

Sir, Lord Brightman (March 7) argues that under the House of Lords select committee's recommendations on the Infant Life (Preservation) Bill the life of a healthy baby would only be lost where the alternative was the possible death of the pregnant woman or certain damage to her health.

And that presumably includes her mental health.

Last year over 90 per cent of the more than 170,000 legal abortions were procured on account of "mental disorders", practically all of which were classified either as "neurotic disorders" or "depressive disorder", not elsewhere classified; and very few of these are likely to have been really serious, or more than transient. Is that in future to apply to abortions procured after the age of viability? If not, how is it to be prevented?

An answer might be to require

late abortions to be done only in major NHS hospitals with the authority of an approved consultant (i.e. not any two doctors, some of whom sincerely believe that a woman has the right to choose an abortion for any reason at all), who would take personal responsibility for the decision to terminate. But that is not among the select committee's present recommendations.

Where a foetus may possibly be viable, every effort has to be made to save it after delivery. But since prematurity carries a serious risk of permanent damage to the child, it will be difficult to judge between that and the interests of the mother, when it is not her physical but only her mental health which may be at risk if the baby is carried to term.

Yours etc,
C. B. GOODHART,
Gonville & Caius College,
Cambridge.
March 8.

War memorials

From the General Secretary of the Royal British Legion
Sir, The Legion's national council would most certainly approve our branches (Mr Trevor Wells's letter, March 16) undertaking an

Reform of GCSE

From the General Secretary of the Secondary Heads Association
Sir, I am sure that our member, Mr M. Roberts (March 4), is expressing sincere doubts about some aspect of this year's GCSE examinations, but I must correct any impression he may have given unwittingly that the Secondary Heads Association as a whole, or any part of it, is not fully behind the reform of 16-plus examining.

Our national council reaffirmed this support strongly only two weeks ago, and our meeting last week between the heads' associations and the secretaries of the exam boards reflected the determination of all concerned to make the examination valid, reliable, credible and relevant.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SNAPE, General Secretary,
Secondary Heads Association,
107 St Paul's Road, NI.
March 7.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reflections on a tranquil stream

From Mr P. H. Ogden and Mr David Hutchings

Sir, We would refer to the article (March 12) by Andrew Morgan on the dispute between boating interests and conservationists on the Derwent river in North Yorkshire. Why is it necessary to spend well over £200,000 on a battle that need not be fought? There is no reason why, given good will on both sides, navigation and conservation cannot co-exist.

The Warwickshire Avon is a river where navigation is having no ill effect on conservation. Every year hundreds of people travel quietly up and down the river, enjoying the wildlife and the natural history. They place their litter in bins provided by the Upper Avon Navigation Trust. Mooring and sanitary stations are provided for them, so they do not trespass on the banks, nor pollute the water. Fishing in the river has become better owing to the positioning of navigation weirs and the aeration effect of these weirs on the water.

The Derwent river navigation

could be managed in just such a manner and very many people would be able to view this lovely river, with the minimum disturbance to nature. Now, for the most part, only the lucky riverside landowners have that privilege.

As for the views of the landowners concerned, the following is an extract from a letter from the most prominent of those on the Upper Avon:

I have suffered neither loss nor damage, trespass nor rudeness from those using the river. I put my trust in the good sense of the majority of the British public and that trust at no time by any boat user has ever been abused. I believe the public should have the right to use the natural resources of the countryside — responsibly, and that has been my experience.

There are 10 other such letters on file.
Yours faithfully,
P. H. OGDEN (Chairman),
DAVID HUTCHINGS (Manager),
The Upper Avon Navigation Trust Limited,
Avon House,
Harvington, Worcestershire.

Care of cathedrals

From the Secretary General of the General Synod of the Church of England

Sir, May I correct a misunderstanding in the letter (March 16) from the Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. When the General Synod adjourned debate on the draft Care of Cathedrals Measure on February 10 it deliberately took that step so as not to give the outward impression that it was opposed to the principle which the Measure enshrines, namely the introduction of some degree of external control over repairs and alterations to cathedrals.

The debate did, however, show that there exists sufficient criticism of the method of control proposed in the Measure to justify its withdrawal and reintroduction after appropriate amendment.

More recently the standing committee of the General Synod has clarified the situation even further by placing on record its firm resolve to reintroduce this legislation in revised form yet still embodying the principle of mandatory control to which the whole Synod has been committed since July, 1984. Yours faithfully,
W. D. PATTINSON,
Secretary General,
The General Synod of the Church of England,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1.
March 17.

Galloping Gatwick

From Lady Longley

Sir, Following the opening of the new North Terminal at Gatwick by her Majesty the Queen today, it occurs to me that some of your readers may be interested to know what it was like there at the turn of the century.

From 1906 till 1914 I lived in a house opposite the start of "the straight mile" of the racecourse. An 18-hole golf course crossed the course in several places with steps to get over the rails. My parents were keen golfers and racegoers and I was given a set of miniature golf clubs.

The Exchange Telegraph News Agency installed a telephone in our house with an extension to my bedroom from which they could watch the races. With their telescope they could read the names of the winners as they went up on the board and phone them to London. They paid the phone rent, gave us one free call a day and £1 cash on race days.

The entrance driveway from the old London-Brighton coach road was nearly a mile long and the new terminal stands on the site of the old grandstand. Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY L. LONGLEY,
The Beeches, East Park,
Crawley, Sussex.
March 18.

Sports injuries

From Dr Christopher Ward

Sir, Your correspondent (March 9) suggests compulsory medical insurance for athletes. But why not others? Of the last 18 new patients I saw, 15 had coronary artery disease; of these 10 were heavy smokers and nine were significantly overweight.

Compulsory medical insurance for smokers has, quite reasonably, been suggested before, but why not for those who eat food — or for that matter, those who selfishly get pregnant, or those who willfully cross the road and get themselves knocked down? The list is almost endless.

At least those who take part in vigorous exercise are reducing the likelihood of developing cardiovascular diseases, which are a major burden on the NHS. Yours faithfully,
CHRIS WARD (consultant cardiologist),
Wythenshawe Hospital,
Manchester.
March 10.

A word to the wise

From Commander J. P. T. Torr

Sir, When I was young the old were always right. Now I am getting on it is the young who are always right. On the basis that old habits die hard it would be interesting to see if the present younger generation in due course promote a countervailing change.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TORR,
Moorgate, Kingston Gorse,
West Sussex.
March 10.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 22 1960

In South Africa 67 people were killed and nearly 200 wounded in the Sharpeville disturbances. World opinion condemned South Africa, which a year later left the Commonwealth and became a republic.

[SHARPEVILLE]

JOHANNESBURG, MARCH 21

The Pan-Africanists' campaign against the pass laws exploded today on the banks of the Vaal river — at Vereeniging and in Vanderbijlpark near by, the site of many industries and the country's largest steel-rolling mill. After desultory shooting in the morning, in which one African was killed and another seriously wounded, a crowd of several hundred Africans this afternoon began stoning the police armoured cars. Quite suddenly there were bursts of firing, chiefly from Sten guns, and the mob scattered, leaving about 80 people sprawled on the ground in a growing pool of blood.

Among them was a dead child and a screaming woman, painfully if superficially wounded. By dusk a dozen bodies were in the mortuary with, according to the police, more to come in. Some 30 people had been admitted to local hospitals with serious wounds.

One report put the number of dead at more than 50, while the injured people exceed 150, including a score of women and children.

FRENZIED HELP

Mr Charles Channon, a Press photographer with long war experience, described the scene as the "bloodiest" he had ever seen; he added that most of the young constables were "obviously appalled" by what their shooting had done, and they tried to make some amends by the "almost frenzy" with which they helped to get the wounded people into the ambulances.

Nobody seems to know quite how the tragedy occurred, especially as the anti-pass campaign had opened to-day so calmly almost everywhere. Around Johannesburg, headquarters of the movement, there were civil disobedience protests, which were handled amply, almost humorously; and at Durban and Port Elizabeth everything was normal.

The Pan-Africanist Movement, which is a rival breakaway group from the moderate African National Congress, had set to-day aside for pass law protests, and people were asked to go peacefully to the nearest police stations to report that they had not got their passes with them and ask to be arrested. In most places the police apparently told them to go away, although in Johannesburg Mr Robert Sobukwe, leader of the Pan-Africanists (and a lecturer at Witwatersrand University), was detained with 10 others for questioning.

CAR WRECKED

Around Vereeniging, however, trouble was apparently expected, and after the shooting in the morning, police reinforcements were sent there. Soon after noon about a dozen Saracen armoured vehicles were on call at the Sharpeville location. Soon the police station at Sharpeville, standing in a large open compound, was virtually besieged by thousands of Africans shouting "Africa, Africa".

The only way the police outside could make contact with those in the station was to force a way in with the Saracens. As soon as the armoured cars got through the ranks of Africans would close again. A municipal motor car which ventured through earlier in the morning emerged as a wreck, with the occupants injured. Gradually the station force was built up to 60 armed policemen.

Up to late this afternoon no official explanation had been given for the immediate cause of the order to fire, but some hooliganism had been going on before the crowd started stoning the armoured cars.

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ch of a visit

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS

BARROW - On March 17th 1988, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and David, a son, a brother for Emma, Polly, Elizabeth and Mary.

CLOUGH - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

COLVIN - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

CRABE - On March 19th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

DEBON - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

FRANKLAND - On March 17th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

GARRISON - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

LEAHMAN - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

MATTHEWS - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

SEAWARD - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

SMITH - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

TEBBETT - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

WELSH - On March 18th, at the Leicester General Hospital, to Margaret and Simon, a daughter, Nathalie Suzanne.

ADOPTIONS

SELDON - On March 17th 1988, by Elizabeth (nee Evans) and Bill, the blessing of a daughter Claire Anne-Marie, now 10 months, a sister for Timothy.

PEARL ANNIVERSARIES

DEATHS

ABRAMSON - On March 18th, Dr. Ger-ald, 84, of Boston, died of cancer. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

ALLDAY - On March 18th, after a short illness, died of cancer. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

BALLARD - On March 18th, John Michael Ballard, 68, died of cancer. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

BESLEY - On March 19th, peacefully in hospital, after a long illness, John Besley, 82, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

BOYD - On March 17th, peacefully at home in Buxton, Patricia, widow of Alan Boyd and mother of David, 72, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

CLIFFORD BROWN - On March 19th, peacefully at home, Clifford Brown, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

DOUGLAS - On March 18th, peacefully at home, Douglas, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

FRANKLAND - On March 17th, peacefully at home, Frankland, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

GARRISON - On March 18th, peacefully at home, Garrison, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

LEAHMAN - On March 18th, peacefully at home, Leahman, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

MATTHEWS - On March 18th, peacefully at home, Matthews, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

SEAWARD - On March 18th, peacefully at home, Seaward, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

SMITH - On March 18th, peacefully at home, Smith, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

TEBBETT - On March 18th, peacefully at home, Tebbett, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

WELSH - On March 18th, peacefully at home, Welsh, 87, died. No flowers but donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chelsea Antiques Fair
Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Rd, SW3
March 15-26
40 stands including antique, modern, and contemporary art, furniture, and objects.
Penman Antiques Fair
Tel: 04447 2514

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THE PIANO WORKSHOP
LONDON
ENGLAND
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MAY: Skiing, snowboarding, and other winter sports in the Alps and the Rockies.

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British Heart Foundation. Tel: 01 499 5334

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MARRY PHILLIPS, AQUASCUTUM LTD. Tel: 01 499 5334

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Archaeology

Video 'spies' on pharaoh's barge

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

The technology of the atomic age has been used to investigate the culture of the Pharaohs in a study recently concluded at the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

A miniature video camera developed by a Surrey firm to look inside nuclear reactors was lowered into a sealed pit to film the ceremonial barge of the Pharaoh Khufu, buried for over 4,500 years.

Mounted on a drill cylinder only three and a half inches in diameter, the camera, developed by the Rees Company of Old Woking, was lowered through a hole drilled in the five-foot thick roof of the pit.

It can swivel up and down through 180 degrees and rotate in a complete circle, and was used to scan the entire interior of the chamber, with light provided by optical fibres.

A still camera taking colour slides and a flash were also mounted on the cylinder, in a study organized by the National Geographic Society, which publishes the results in the April issue of *National Geographic Magazine*.

"We wanted to see the contents of the chamber without disturbing it," Dr Farouk El-Baz, the scientific co-ordinator of the project, said.

An airlock was used to cap the drill hole in case the chamber contained ancient air, but as reports later last year indicated, there was no complete seal.

On the other hand, the carbon dioxide content of the air inside the chamber was twice that of the atmosphere outside.

This was caused by the slow decay of the cedar timbers of the barge, said Dr Pieter Tans,

Archaeology

Latest finds

Sir David Arnold Scott Cairns, of Ashurst, Surrey, former Lord Justice of Appeal, former chairman of the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices Commission 1954-56, left estate valued at £396,768 net.

Mrs Evelyn Violet Jean Kennerly, of London SW7, left estate valued at £1,180,558 net.

Elsie Ella Tubb, of Bramley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, left estate valued at £109,918 net. She left her entire estate to the Parochial Church Council of St James, Bramley.

Trust appeal

With 1988 marking the 25th anniversary of the death of President Kennedy, the Trustees of The Kennedy Memorial Trust announce the launch of a £1 million appeal in addition to maintaining the monument to President Kennedy at Runnymede. The Trust provides up to 12 scholarships each year to British graduate students to study at Harvard or MIT.

Bridge international

England retained their title in the home countries bridge international series for the Cambridge Cup when beating Wales by 61-19 in a match played at Dyffryn House, Cardiff at the weekend.

With four out of the six members of the British silver medal-winning team in the recent world championship, England started as strong favourites but Wales surprised a surprise in the first of the three matches when England lost 18-12 victory points.

In the other match at Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, lost 41-48 to Scotland but retained their second place overall by one victory point. Final table: England 188, Northern Ireland 122, Scotland 121, Wales 92.

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Sir David Arnold Scott Cairns, of Ashurst, Surrey, former Lord Justice of Appeal, former chairman of the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices Commission 1954-56, left estate valued at £396,768 net.

Mrs Evelyn Violet Jean Kennerly, of London SW7, left estate valued at £1,180,558 net.

Elsie Ella Tubb, of Bramley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, left estate valued at £109,918 net. She left her entire estate to the Parochial Church Council of St James, Bramley.

Trust appeal

With 1988 marking the 25th anniversary of the death of President Kennedy, the Trustees of The Kennedy Memorial Trust announce the launch of a £1 million appeal in addition to maintaining the monument to President Kennedy at Runnymede. The Trust provides up to 12 scholarships each year to British graduate students to study at Harvard or MIT.

Bridge international

England retained their title in the home countries bridge international series for the Cambridge Cup when beating Wales by 61-19 in a match played at Dyffryn House, Cardiff at the weekend.

With four out of the six members of the British silver medal-winning team in the recent world championship, England started as strong favourites but Wales surprised a surprise in the first of the three matches when England lost 18-12 victory points.

In the other match at Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, lost 41-48 to Scotland but retained their second place overall by one victory point. Final table: England 188, Northern Ireland 122, Scotland 121, Wales 92.

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Sharper profile for high-flying business people



Britain's enterprise culture and the country's economic growth have been good for business travel. This is because trade activity drives the business element in travel, reflected in passenger growth for airlines, more bookings for hotels and increased expenditure on conference and exhibitions.

The size of the market is debatable. A new survey by the travel management services division of American Express, the credit-card company, shows that British businesses are spending almost £20 billion a year on travel and entertainment. A large slice of this however is accounted for by day-to-day "on the road" car journeys by sales representatives because the figure includes the cost of running company fleets of vehicles and petrol.

Pickfords, one of the big four in business travel, puts the figure for specific business travel at between £5 billion and £6 billion.

Until four or five years ago, there was no consciousness of the worth of the business travel market. Early calculations tended to be based on take-up of airlines seats.

Now there is a heightened awareness of business travel as a major company expense. It has given birth to the business travel agent as opposed to the general travel agent. Business travel used to be assigned to a back room in a leisure travel agency. Today, business travel centres flourish in their own right.

Thomas Cook, which says it is just ahead of Hogg Robinson as market leader, has 40 business travel centres and a further 40 units operating within companies to give a specialist travel service. The turnover of business travel

handled by Thomas Cook in 1987 was £220 million, compared with £176 million two years ago. It rose to £200 million the following year. The prediction for the current financial year is £250 million turnover.

Assessing the size of the market - stripped of day-to-day travel and entertainment - in the tighter terms of what is available to the travel agent, Thomas Cook works on a figure of £1.6 billion and puts its market share at 14 per cent.

What nobody seems in doubt about is the continuing growth of the business travel market and the acknowledgement by companies that they can benefit from the services

6 Travel and entertainment are part and parcel of business

of travel experts. Pickfords, long involved in business travel, set up a separate business travel operation in 1986 as a statement of its commitment to this market.

Richard Lovell, managing director of Pickfords Business Travel, said that companies were recognizing the need to have a travel policy. He added: "Our job now is travel management. Historically, different elements of business travel arrangements have been handled by different people within a company. Companies didn't know how much they were spending. Now they are concerned with being cost-effective and are looking to us for a service."

The American Express survey estimates the average annual spending by British travellers going abroad at

£7,000 a head. Chris Rodrigues, managing director of the management-services division, said: "Travel and entertainment are very much part and parcel of doing business, particularly as British companies sharpen up their competitive edge in international markets."

In air travel, the rate of increase in the number of passengers worldwide has since 1970 been close to double the rate of economic growth in OECD member countries.

Since 1981 there has been an upward trend. British Airways now calculates that its annual revenue from business travel exceeds £1 billion.

As the chances of a more liberalized air-fares structure in Europe grow, it holds up the possibility of more business travel being stimulated. Then there are the EEC moves towards a single European market in 1992 which means that for Britons to do more business, or even to maintain their present levels of exports, they will have to do more travel around Europe.

To attract the business traveller, the airlines have come a long way since a separated business class, distinct from both first class and economy class, was created at the start of the present decade. Qantas was the pioneer; other airlines quickly followed.

The business-class traveller is now pampered on the ground as well as in the air. Creating the best business class has been made a priority by Sir Colin Marshall, the British Airways chief executive. The class has been overhauled for both intercontinental and European routes; £4 million has been spent on 2,500 new 20in-wide reclining seats. Space for hand luggage has been increased.

Irene Farnsworth

Even travel agents themselves might concede that if they do not watch their step, they may not be around to sell airline tickets by the year 2000.

Frequently given a panning by their critics for sloppy service, poorly trained staff and over-reliance on computer technology, firms at the top of the UK agency league are all too aware that to stay at the forefront of the lucrative executive travel business, they must sharpen their performance.

Under fire from the growth in airline and tour-operator direct-sell operations, moves by supermarket and other chains into travel retailing and - potentially - the home-computer revolution - most agents are crucially aware that strength of service will dictate who stays ahead of the pack.

Big Bang may have shaken the world of City high finance to the foundations, but high technology has now seized the travel industry with equal vengeance.

Barely a month elapses without the launch of some or other new system aimed at paring agents' paperwork or speeding counter service and the profits of tomorrow's market leaders, predict the experts, will be inextricably linked to investment in electronic wizardry.

Operational from next month is a new electronic view-data service designed to offer the widest range of late-

availability seat-only fares and package holidays. ABC Travelbank - a joint venture between ABC International and Istel - will cross-connect with up to 30 tour operators and, says Istel's leisure sales and marketing director, John Touch, offer investors "an unequalled choice of quality controlled availability information".

Hailed as another high-tech breakthrough is the Sahara computerized hotel reservation system, accessed

Quick access to data improves the service

through Travicom Executive. It supplies detailed screen information covering room availability, local transport costs, special events and restaurants, thus saving clerks from combing through weighty hotel and travel manuals.

"Accessing such comprehensive data instantly has greatly improved the service we can give business travellers," says Colin Beeststone of Harvey Thomas Travel, an Oxfordshire firm, and one of six agents piloting the system. "Investing in state-of-the-art technology is now essential to maintain a lead in the field."

Also much acclaimed is a new airline ticketing system to be given its first showing at London's Technology

in Tourism and Leisure '88 exhibition next month. The Isocard system combines magnetic strip data storage with until receipt printing and could, if accepted, replace a range of paperwork with a single piece of encoded plastic. User agents would be able to produce, with a single item, a fully detailed flight ticket, boarding pass and luggage tag.

The magnetic strip holds all the processed details appearing on the ticket and includes security codes and other information. By collating all the data held electronically, it also offers users an instant passenger list.

More controversial are the airline-marketed computerized reservation systems now heavily used by agents to make flight bookings, a tool without which the US air-travel industry, for one, would almost certainly grind to a halt.

Most of America's 30,000 or more agents are now automated, with more than half linked to the Sabre and Apollo systems designed by American and United Airlines respectively.

Research shows that airlines with the greatest travel-agent penetration sell the most seats and, most significantly, that agents generally book tickets with the carrier whose flight details appear on the all-important first screen of information.

Since airlines marketing the sys-

tems generally receive priority screen listing, blazing industry rows have erupted over alleged computer bias which the new multi-carrier Amadeus and Galileo systems being developed are pledged to tackle.

Meanwhile, many critics claim that far from harnessing the best of new technology to provide slicker counter service, agents have merely hand-crafted themselves to systems not designed to function in the customer's

6 Millions of pounds down the drain

best interests. As Thomas Cook Business Travel's national accounts sales director, Brian Axon-Boyes, admits: "Computer bias is a major concern. Clerks do have a tendency to book the first or second name that appears on-screen."

Despite taking a lot of criticism, agents nonetheless have much to offer companies whose managers are regularly on the move. As well as offering worthwhile savings on room rates and travel, many specialists will help a client devise and monitor a properly structured travel policy and thus keep a firmer rein on costs. This, it would appear, is a matter that many firms have much to learn about.

Marion Cotter



Drawing by Ken Pyne

Will we always need agents?



Why business travellers treat our airline as their secret service.

Business people are notoriously tight-lipped about things they discover to their advantage. Like Dan-Air Scheduled Services.

Last year alone, we flew over half a million business passengers. So what do they know that you don't?

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Perhaps it's our list of destinations.

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OUR AIRPORT

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myth that Gatwick is a holiday airport.

In fact, it is the fastest growing business terminal in the United Kingdom.

It is easier and quicker to reach, thanks to the express trains that leave Victoria every 15 minutes and London Bridge hourly.

And more comfortable and less frenetic than that airport West of London.

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Our flights have full service, with hot meals, hot towels and warm flight attendants.

A complimentary bar is available and our attendants

are a by-word for courtesy, efficiency and their willingness to cater for individual tastes.

Our timings are planned to get you to your destination early, with ample time for business (or pleasure) and get you home at a civilised hour. Best of all, for this exceptionally high level of service, you pay an exceptionally low (in many cases, the lowest) level of fare.

SHARE THE SECRET

To get in on our loyal business travellers' best kept secret, ask your travel agent for full details of our services. Or call 0345 100200 for a brochure and timetable.

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SCHEDULED SERVICES

The secret is service.

Executive woman is looking for a welcome



The executive woman represents the fastest-growing sector in today's travel market. One in five business-class passengers flying BA, and one in five guests staying in UK hotels is a female executive. Yet with few exceptions, airlines and hotels worldwide look on her with suspicion, indifference, or scorn. She is made to feel neither welcome nor secure.

For her money, the same as a male executive pays, she is the one next to the squalling infants on a plane; put in a room dangerously remote at the end of a long hotel corridor; seated behind a pillar in the restaurant and then ignored; refused drinks in a bar — even in London's sophisticated hotels. Why?

Having worked for a luxury hotel chain, I know what management will never officially admit: that some hotels have their regular "girls" and do not want competition about — meaning any lone female.

Single women also are not welcome because hotels make their money in bar sales and tips and business entertaining, and women, executive or not, are not considered "spenders".

But hotels and airlines — which often ticket Club Class women as "Mr" but give them the scant attention of a "Ms"

— may be forced to change their ideas. Last November, after a survey of nearly 200 businesswomen revealed a torrent of complaints about airlines and hotels, Sally Jackson, the sales director of World Travel Agency, joined forces with three other women executives to form the Business Woman's Travel Club. Its aim is to make the travel industry aware that they must cater for this lucrative growth area — or lose out to those who do.

They have passed on the survey's complaints to leading hotel chains and airlines, sent

Precautions for women include electronic keys

out penetrating questionnaires to hotels in the UK and abroad to determine just what facilities and security measures women can expect from them, and what the staff attitudes are to women on their own.

From the replies, the club will collate a database for a guide to hotels where women will be safe and welcome, with perhaps a blacklist, too. Stickers with the club logo will identify co-operative hotels. The club also plans to present annual awards to the Hotel and the Airline of the Year for Women Travellers. They are

also running seminars, days out, and in London, on April 24, a day for women to do business there and with Japanese firms in the country — and plans to publish a directory of various countries and areas.

Some hotels, though, are already well ahead in providing for women executives, notably both Ramada and Crest Hotels.

Ramada, a US-based chain, is doing a second field survey on how the travelling woman wants to be treated.

Its first, five years ago, resulted in a staff training programme to ensure that women received not special but equal treatment. Security precautions include electronic keys, always presented face down at reception, and barmen trained both to prevent men pestering women and to give them equal service.

Crest's Lady Crest rooms are grouped for safety near lifts or stairs, with chain locks and spyholes; staff hand over room keys so the numbers do not show; bartenders serving lone women ask for signatures, not vocal room numbers; facilities include hair dryers, make-up and full-length mirrors, skirt hangers, even irons and ironing boards, and restaurant welcome and serve women.

What women have also said is that they want safe transport



A woman embarks on a trip: but will she be assured of a safe reception when she arrives overseas, alone?

between airports and the airport hotels where they usually stay, particularly in the Middle East and Africa (Nigeria's taxis are notoriously dangerous); women's only toilets on aircraft, especially on these routes, and on inter-city trains, too; a "travelers table" in hotel restaurants, where guests, male and female, could swap experiences and tips at the end of a tiring day.

What they do not want is separate hotel floors for women. "That's like being in an all-girls dormitory, which most of us grew out of a long time ago," says Catherine Chetwynd, assistant editor of *Executive Travel*, who has written about security for women travellers for *The*

International Air Travel Handbook to be published next year.

"What helps more is behaving with confidence. Behave like a victim, and you'll be treated like one."

She admitted then that it might be difficult for blondes. She is not fair and is rarely hassled on her travels. Fair-haired female colleagues usually are, especially in Italy, Spain and Greece.

So a wig or a hat might just be the solution for a blonde executive woman fed up with being treated like a tart. At least until the travel industry reforms itself.

Jean Seraggie
The Business Woman's Travel Club is at 10 Stratton Ground, London SW1P 2HP (01-222-4539). Membership, £40 a year. All-day seminar on Japan, April 20, £65. Members £85, non-members including lunch.

Freebie system fading

Businessmen whose jobs make them "frequent fliers" in the airlines' eyes are not declining in number, despite last October's stock market crash, but the travel trade's enthusiasm for schemes that buy loyalty with free tickets is definitely on the wane.

Unlike the major United States carriers, British and European airlines have in the main preferred to lock in their regular business customers by upgrading the facilities at the airport and in-flight.

VIP lounges for members of these flying elites, more comfortable seating, special facilities that cater for the businessman's every communication need, are the added value that has been managed to keep people faithful to a particular airline, as British Airways' investment in this area has demonstrated.

A cost of millions to the industry

Deregulation of air travel in the US has given rise to a number of new carriers in recent years fiercely competing for market share. A 1991 they discovered in the early 1980s was to offer to passengers whose routine flying took them over a certain mileage the incentive of additional free flights.

The airlines took a stab at the appropriate mileage thresholds that qualified for giveaway tickets, and would appear to have been overgenerous in the incentive surge in demand for any given. The three airlines and conditions attached to the use of these tickets, have been adjusted to try to stem the flow.

Mr James, sales and marketing director with the Hogg Robinson business-travel group who worked in the US until 1987, says he has seen the airlines' frequent flyer programmes in the past few years. "It's something that is costing the airline industry millions of dollars."

Initially, the way of selecting miles was arbitrary, extending to areas such as "blackout dates" which might mean a holiday was brought to a halt. "It's a way of selecting miles," says Mr James, "which is arbitrary and which might mean a holiday was brought to a halt."

The widely used scale of whole plane loads of passengers on the free flights. Even at peak flying times, it will be occasional, but people in the travel trade believe it indicates a real trend. Estimates of the cost of such programmes start around the five per cent of revenue.

Mr James established "gold card" status during his time in the US, which entitles him to two free flights a year. "It's a way of selecting miles," says Mr James, "which is arbitrary and which might mean a holiday was brought to a halt."

Despite his own experience Mr James, like others in the corporate travel business, has no great love of the US system, which is seen as a poor alternative to the frequent-flyer services of Europe's airlines.

The leading travel companies in London seem to favour, perhaps understandably, placing their corporate clients with airlines that do not discount fares beyond the volume booking reductions offered to companies. For the travel firms this is clearly a better deal, as there is no need to write out "nil fare" tickets, which cost time and effort but bring no revenue.

Like many of its European rivals, BA has a tie-up with United Airlines and American Airlines, allowing frequent fliers to earn points on transatlantic flights. But the BA does not see this as the way forward.

Luring them away from one carrier

What is annoying the travel trade in Britain are the difficulties that loyalty bought with free tickets cause for corporate travel planners. Schemes which reward the business traveller for his or her individual mileage, can lure them away from the carrier their company has designated, making block deals between the travel agents and companies highly vulnerable.

Mike Rainbow of Pickfords Business Travel notes that companies flying "high-world" executives around the world are reluctant to slap their wrists as they choose different airlines, hotels, or associated services that boost their personal frequent-travel account.

The trouble with the loyalty bonus system, he believes, is that though many of the participant airlines probably want to drop the system altogether, nobody wants to be first. He adds: "It's a game of chicken."

What makes Britain a fine place for conferences

Britain is the world's favourite international conference country, ahead of France, West Germany, the United States or Switzerland. Among the nations' capitals, only Paris is ahead of London in the popularity polls.

What sets Britain apart from its main rivals? It is certainly not its purpose-built conference complexes. There are few, if any, in this country to match meeting planners will find in France, West Germany, Austria, Switzerland or the US.

Almost everywhere else architects, governments and municipalities have aimed at attracting the biggest congresses. In this country, the target has often been the minnows.

A survey in the US disclosed that more than 706,000 company meetings were held there in 1986. Most were for fewer than 100 delegates and 35 per cent were attended by fewer than 50.

During a recent visit to Glenaeles Hotel, Scotland, each of the 10 conference rooms was in use, but none had more than 40 men and women attending any of the sessions.

The general manager, Peter Lederer, told me: "We are catering for more corporate meetings for both British and overseas companies, but the numbers attending are fewer than five years ago, enabling us to provide a higher standard of personal attention."

Laura Morgan, whose International Vacations probably takes care of more incoming incentive groups to Britain than any equivalent organization, said: "When the marketing or sales meetings are for fewer than 30, we almost always recommend a country house hotel or stately home, like Brockton Hall in Hertfordshire, not only because of its closeness to London, but because Lord and Lady Brockton are there to give a personal welcome to guests."

Geoffrey Smith, an international conference expert, writing in the 1987/88 directory of the influential European Federation of Conference Towns, confirms the trend that small is simpler and easier to organize.

He said: "Small, high-tech conferences will increase... international conferences will grow, as in the last four or five years, but many will become more specialized, and thus smaller."

"But don't write off the big meetings. They are here to stay and have a *raison d'être* all their own. Europe will remain the preferred venue for 60 per cent of them."

Which is why the UK, where the combination of meetings, exhibitions and incentive travel is already a billion pound industry, has placed an each-way bet.

Last year saw the opening in London of a new purpose-built conference centre at Olympia. With a tiered auditorium for just 450, and simultaneous translations available in eight languages, it has already begun to attract

events at which the quality of the surroundings and facilities available are more important than the numbers taking part.

This year has seen the rebirth of a far larger baby, Alexandra Palace, which was destroyed by fire in 1987, has been like a phoenix to provide London with a great hall that can hold 7,250 delegates in an auditorium that makes traditional Victorian theatres with 20th-century technology.

A single span, translucent roof provides natural, but diffused, light. The nearby West Hall is aimed at conferences and congresses needing room for between 300 and 2,500 delegates.

Neither gives London a meeting place to compare with the plush-boutique grandeur of the ICC in West Berlin, yet it does not matter. London remains the city where most men and women from every part of the world prefer to meet.

Why? It combines adequate facilities with history, an in-

comparable theatre, plus museums, galleries and Harrods, as well as restaurants that are better than ever.

For meetings of every size the capital has older veterans such as Wembley and the Barbican Centre, and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, opposite the Houses of Parliament, which though originally conceived as the location for meetings of heads of state and other international gatherings of statesmen, scientists and politicians, has now been given a wider brief to attract commercial conferences, and is succeeding beyond anything expected by its masters, the mandarins of Whitehall.

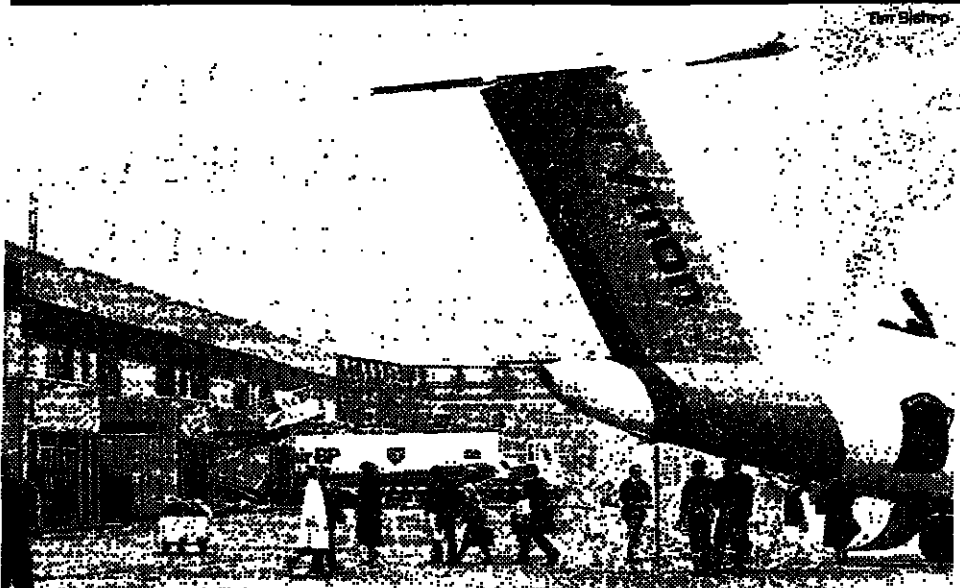
London can also offer hotels like the Grosvenor House, in Park Lane, which has, possibly, the largest hall in any hotel this side of the Atlantic, as well as Hiltons and Hyatts, Sheratons, InterContinental and Forums, Ramadas and Marriotts.

In Edinburgh, the Heriot-Watt university has started a £3 million development programme to turn the Scottish capital's first purpose-built conference centre with a tiered hall seating 800.

Moss Murray



Alexandra Palace: destroyed by fire in 1987, its rebuilt great hall can hold 7,250 delegates



London City Airport in the heart of Docklands was launched in a fanfare of publicity but a setback occurred after safety doubts caused the suspension of one flight route. Now, however, optimism is returning with the opening of new routes to encourage business travellers to take advantage of the airport's convenience for travellers from the City

Give yourself a break and you'll have more success

As every business traveller knows, there comes a time on even the most productive trip when you just can't take it any more. Too much rush, too many late nights and lunches, the accumulating jet-lag and the sheer strain of dealing with an ever-changing stream of unfamiliar faces finally wears you out, and the enthusiasm flags. When that moment arrives, the time has come to take a break.

Wise, experienced travellers will anticipate this moment and now often build a break into their itinerary, aiming to steal off somewhere and recharge their batteries. But all too often, if the schedule gets tight, that little bit of rest and relaxation gets squeezed out. Far better, therefore, not only to plan your break ahead but also book it, so that a little rest becomes as important and as inviolate as the most high-level business appointment.

"I find," says Geoffrey Phillips, an international sales director, "that having a break planned for a week or so ahead really helps me to go all-out, knowing I can rest later, otherwise I would have to pace myself much more carefully. I also think the break should be a change; just flopping on a poolside lounge is not the answer."

This point, and the provision of active, interesting mid-trip business breaks has been taken up by safari operator Abercrombie & Kent, who can offer a number of relaxing and diverse safari breaks for businessmen in East Africa and the Gulf.

Businessmen can leave Nairobi on Friday evening and fly down for a long weekend at Kitchwa-Tembo, a luxurious safari camp in the Masai-Mara, for three days of game viewing. The region has an abundance of big game, and seeing just some of it offers a very different kind of relaxation in a short space of time.

Those who want something more active can go fishing on Lake Kariba from Harare or Lusaka, based on the Abercrombie & Kent centre on Fothergill Island out on this vast man-made lake. Other local attractions include boat safaris and game drives on the mainland. Such breaks will not strain the business budget because the rates compare well with the prices usually charged in city-centre business hotels.

Relaxing between the work

TRAVEL NOTES

Full details on safari breaks from Abercrombie & Kent, Sloane Square House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 9NS. 01-730 9500. Stopover breaks on Air Canada, British Airways and most other airlines can be booked through any business travel agent.

Three days at Kitchwa-Tembo costs £312, including flights; three days at Fothergill Island, excluding flights, but including full-board accommodation, costs £210.

Thomas Cook has long been active in the business market and makes the valid point that for a variety of reasons, business executives often find time on their hands. The time can be better spent in staying calm, trying to relax, or seeing the country. Thomas Cook can arrange stopover breaks all over the world, giving fresh opportunities to those hard-working, travellers whose journeys are restricted usually to the hotel room, their clients' or customers' offices and a couple of air-conditioned bars.

It is always possible to



New York: Stop over a few days and you won't have far to go for relaxation

stagger flights, book a hotel and arrange car hire in Britain for a short break abroad. If any existing package does not meet the traveller's precise requirements, Thomas Cook is happy to tailor one to fit.

The side-trips available clearly depend on where you happen to be. But for example those who find themselves stuck in the Gulf, notably in Dubai, could visit the world's smallest Hilton Hotel at Fujairah, across the desert, set on a spectacular strip of coastline, backed by mountains.

The hotel has pools, air-conditioning, and the usual extras, but outside you can sample camel treks, picnics in the jebel and desert safaris by four-wheel drive vehicle, a real change and a real rest after a teeth-gritting trip around the Gulf. Travellers in New York can hop on the Amtrak train from Albany to the state capital and hire a car there for a weekend exploring the green forests and lakes of Appalachia, driving up the old Revolutionary Trail to the resort of Lake Placid, only a few hours from Manhattan but a very different world. Shop around among the travel brochures and examples like this abound.

All the traveller really has to do is think ahead, and ask around.

Air Canada has new routes to the Far East and is willing to provide stopover hotels in Bombay and Singapore as well as Toronto, Montreal and Calgary. Similar, personally tailored arrangements can be made for Air Canada's other destinations worldwide. The prices and details are obtainable from any business travel agent or from Air Canada on 01-759 2636.

The same story can be told on every continent and at most business destinations. Be the city never so commercial there is always somewhere agreeable not too far away, where the tired businessman or woman can catch up on sleep and patience before getting out again to wheel and deal.

Business travel is very, very tiring, and tired business people do not perform well. A brief break on a business trip is certainly well worthwhile.

Rob Neillands

THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 22 1988

FOCUS

صكزا عن الامن

FLY CLUB
EUROPE AND
TRAVEL
FIRST TO OVER
THIRTY
EUROPEAN
BUSINESS
DESTINATIONS.

We have the first flights of the day
from London to over 30 European
destinations. We get you there first,
fast and fresh, helping to make
your working day easier and more
efficient.

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Always at the end of a phone

Business travel used to be a case of making the long haul to your destination, doing your business, then fighting with the local telephone or telex system to connect you back to base. The time spent in car or boat or plane was a welcome respite. The businessman or woman was incommunicado, left alone with their own thoughts.

Not any more. In the age of instant communication that kind of privacy is under threat.

The most obvious change for those doing the majority of their travelling in the UK has been cellular radio. This allows you to telephone from anywhere, including a moving vehicle, using a portable, or transportable, hand-set and has more than a quarter of a million UK subscribers.

You can dial anywhere in the world from your car, the hotel bar, or, if you choose, the middle of a field. There is one hitch. Though all European

countries now have cellular radio, the systems are nearly all incompatible, so you cannot, for instance, use a British hand-set while you are motoring through France or an Italian set while travelling in Britain. That will change. All European countries have agreed to harmonize their systems and a pan-European system should start to operate in 1991.

One of the biggest advances, which should come on the market soon, is a miniaturized fax, no bigger than a car radio. It will be possible to put this fax in the glove compartment or a specially prepared recess in the dashboard and leave it switched on to receive and transmit faxes while the car is on the move.

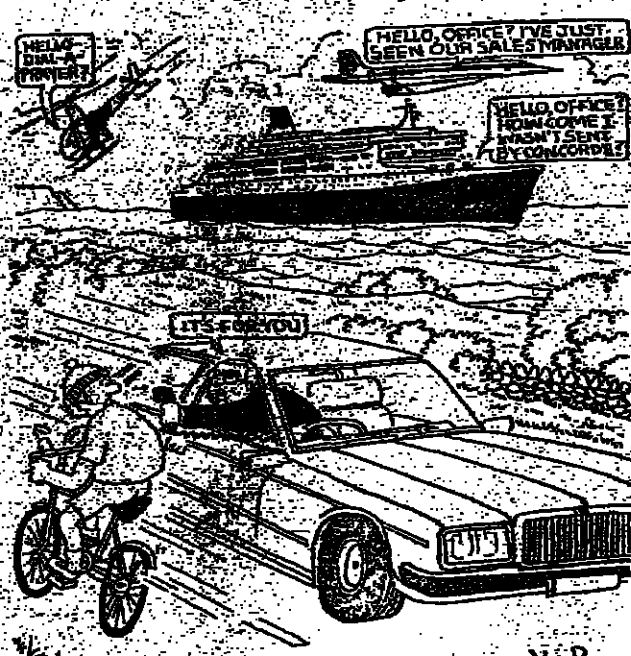
Other types of mobile phones are growing in popularity. The train phone is becoming standard — the businessman can phone the world from several British Rail Pullmans and InterCity trains — and in the US you can even phone from some aircraft, using a system which seeks out

the nearest of a series of ground stations across the continent and routes the call through that.

Businessmen are not just using communications systems to send simple messages. The development of portable computers means that the businessman can send and receive much more complicated messages than before.

Using a modem to connect a computer into the phone system, the executive can send back to head office information of a complexity limited only by the software he is using and, because most computer systems are left on 24 hours a day, can easily access the home-base computer to send or receive messages, or just to tap into the computer's database, even when the home office has shut down for the night.

Computer manufacturers are now making a very sophisticated series of "lap-tops" (light enough to carry as hand luggage) and the heavier "luggables", which pack an enormous amount of comput-



ing power into a small space.

Lap-tops can be used in the previously barren hours on trains or in the back of a car to do detailed work which can then be shot straight down the wires as soon as a phone is reached. People use them on planes, although some airlines may, at their discretion, ask you not to because of concerns about interference with communications systems.

The prices of such machines range from a few hundred pounds for a fairly basic unit with a limited memory to several thousand for a computer that is much more sophisticated.

The next big communications breakthrough is likely to be an airborne telex system. Rascal Decca Advanced Development is testing a system called Prodat as part of a European Space Agency programme. The Portuguese airline, TAP, is already flying the experimental system on a T-71star, others are due to go on one of Varig's Boeing 767 and an Air France 747.

Malcolm Brown

The best comes to he who joins an exclusive travelling club

Old schoolies may still win favours in the City, but the best way to pull strings on your travels is with a plastic hotel club card. Joining the ranks of the recognized frequent-users of leading hotel chains has never been more in vogue — and is often the quickest route to the best rates, best rooms and free extras.

Purists may be reluctant to forsake their favourite haunts simply for a stack of bonus points or free hand-outs. Others point out scornfully that the red-carpet treatment promised to card-holders from hotel staff can amount to little more than a cursory greeting. And some stick conspicuously to the smaller, clubby establishments which they claim offer blue-chip service to every guest.

But for the traveller whose loyalty can be swayed by an attractive array of perks and discounts, hotel club schemes have much to offer. Common perks include priority room reservations, express check-in, expedited check-out times and the best available room. Some

chains will invite your spouse to stay at no extra charge, provide free papers and shoe-shines and even refund your breakfast bill if breakfasts have taken more than 10 minutes to arrive at the door.

At the top end of the scale, bonus points accrued from each stay can be traded in for cruises, airline tickets and holidays for two.

Hyatt Hotels has teamed up with Northwest Delta Airlines and the Hertz Corporation in the US to offer what it claims to be the industry's most ambitious package of service add-ons and awards for frequent users.

Hotels' Honoured Guest Awards, growing at a rate of 30 per cent a year and claimed to out-perk many rival schemes. The chain claims to require fewer hotel nights — 70 — to earn a resort vacation than its competitors, which it says demand up to 633 overnight stays to qualify.

"It is true to say that no major chain can afford to be without a frequent-user incentive scheme these days," concedes Marriott's area sales director, Denis Johnson. "Airlines pioneered the programmes in the US but hotel groups recognized a good idea when they saw it. They are now set to spread very quickly in Europe."

Three out of four InterContinental guests return to stay again at the chain — entitled, no doubt, by the benefits proffered through the Six Continents Club, whose benefits include priority reservations, cheque-cashing privileges and the best room available at the rate requested.

Quick route to the top rates

The group's Gold Passport scheme features more than 20 complimentary guest services and credits five points to a member's account for each US dollar or equivalent spent — be it on meals, laundry or telephone calls.

How to join the Executive Club

Guests subscribing to the group's Rewards programme can also stack up points to redeem for a range of air-travel offers.

Six nights at any Vista or Hilton International hotel qualifies travellers for membership of the Vista Club, which offers a similar range of goods and services benefits. Clocking up 30 nights a year at any of the Oberoi group's plush hotels meanwhile secures membership of its Executive Club, whose benefits include a rates discount, airport meet-and-greet service by limousine, priority bookings and — at flagship properties — a fully fledged butler service.

Numerous other groups also have club schemes to tempt the frequent traveller.

Marion Cotter

Not quite the age of the train

British Rail still has an image problem with the general public, let alone the business traveller, but the prospect of a Channel Tunnel, faster trains and ever more crowded airports could change perceptions markedly, writes Colin Narbough.

The weatherproof link with the Continent, scheduled to open in 1993, will put Paris and Brussels, the effective capital of the Single EEC Market, within a rail travel time of just over three hours.

An hourly departure, alternating between the two European destinations, from the now much-smartened Waterloo Station will in the initial stage take businessmen from city centre to city centre in a highly competitive time compared with the airlines.

BR is already quite competitive with air or car alternatives on domestic routes up to a certain radius, but the travel industry believes that unlike the airlines and car-hire companies, it has failed to identify the business man or woman as a separate client base worth serious courting.

included when the Channel Tunnel high-speed services come on stream. New trains will travel at up to 180 mph on the English side of the Channel, but will be capable of much higher speeds on the other side.

For the communications-laggy executive, there will be telephones on the train, spacious seating and tables on which to work, and top flight dining and refreshment service.

Though BR's planning appears well advanced, Mr Ewart says it is too early for details on the likely cost of such travel, or whether special corporate travel packages will be offered.

Bill Jones, sales and marketing director at the travel group Hogg Robinson, while admitting that rail is the poor cousin of the travel business, at present, accounting for only about eight per cent of revenue, believes it should not be unattractive to the business traveller.

"If it had the on-board services it would look as attractive as air travel on certain routes" BR's own figure suggest 150 to 300 miles as the radius within which it can provide a real option to other forms of transport. Its routings are furthermore very competitive. But BR's conservative ticketing, reduced commissions to travel agents and reluctance to widen sales outlets are not helping foster greater use of the trains, says Mr Jones.

He said: "A much more consistent on-board environment for the businessman to work in, check-in services like those at airports and a more obvious distinction between business and leisure traveller, would all help."

Where customer loyalty is concerned, BR's programme is still very embryonic, and will perhaps take several years to bring into play.

Mike Noah of Pickfords Travel, however, takes a more critical view of rail as a means of travel for the businessman. "Most business travellers just see it as a fallback," he said.

BR's dilemma lies possibly with its own perception of its place in the travel industry. Traditionally, it has not selected as narrow a target customer as the businessman.

However, with the Government pushing it increasingly into a more commercial world, that could change fast.

Most travellers see rail as a fallback

Even so, more than 90 per cent of corporate travel in Europe is still by air, suggesting that there is more than an image problem to be overcome before any radical shift to the tracks is likely.

David Ewart of the BR board, points out that the business customer is not being neglected.

The Executive Ticket scheme, which offers first-class tickets, on-board restaurant vouchers and car parking in a single package, has been operating some time on the main InterCity routes.

Pullman services, with their Cuisine 2000 dining service, may also be seen as attracting the business traveller to trains running between London and the North-West, north Wales and Glasgow.

These experiences in catering for businessmen are being developed further and will be

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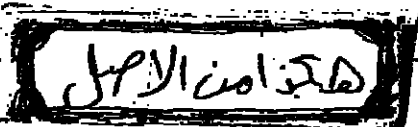
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PARIS FASHION by Liz Smith

Long, lean outlook

For autumn and winter the French designers predict a return to 'sane chic': which means a comeback for sober tailoring, trousers, dandified cloaks, waistcoats and boots . . . and the long skirt

Did the puffball get too big for its high heels? Has fashion become too extravagant for its own good? In Paris this week it is obvious that fashion has reached a turning point. The impact of the arrival on the fashion scene of Christian Lacroix and his glamorous image of the New Woman has rebounded around the world and landed back in Paris.

In the epicentre of style this week the reaction among designers, influenced by angst among store buyers and dithering from the customers, has been unanimous. A new route has been found and the way has been cleared for a return to sober tailoring in flannel and tweed worn with the prim-looking skirts that cover the knee and which have been dubbed by *Women's Wear Daily* as Sane Chic.

There is still life in the short skirt as seen in the new gently belled skirts at Christian Lacroix and the reassuring ladylike elegance consistently turned out by designers such as Givenchy, Lanvin and Dior. A longer option is now on offer. But it is the return of trousers — worn wide or tight,

as leggings — that holds the key to the new swashbuckling look that alternates between that of a Renaissance pageboy or an Edwardian banker.

It is a look seen already in Milan and London, and it requires a little adjustment for eyes that are used to the leggy of recent seasons. Endorsed in Paris by designers as diverse as Lagerfeld, Gaultier, Kenzo and Saint Laurent, it is likely to unleash anyone without an attic to raid on a spending spree for the cloaks, thigh boots and waistcoats of the dandy.

A pair of grey flannel bags, worn with waistcoat and jacket with a bunch of violets pinned at the shirt collar, sums up the image proposed by Lagerfeld at Chanel. He is serious in his commitment to a longer, leaner silhouette and has whipped out the sleeves of

the traditional Chanel tweed jacket and replaced them with skinny sleeves of stretch lace.

He reworks all Coco Chanel's favourite mannish classics of Norfolk jacket, riding mace and waistcoats, adding his own decorations of edelweiss and violets pinned to lapels and embroidered on to velvet evening jackets.

Lagerfeld, the designer who was the first to signal the turning point in fashion with his prophetic longer lengths in his couture collection for summer, opened his own-label show by simply parading the definitive new skirt. Long to mid-calf, high waisted and slinky, it is worn with a white shirt, its collar buttoned up under a close-fitting sweater. On top he flings the cape, which has made its appearance in every designer show seen this week.

Lagerfeld's theme is marked by full-skirted princess line coats and sweaters that are tightly wrapped diagonally with a scarf. By the time Lagerfeld decided to send out a model who was visibly eight months pregnant to emphasise his high-waisted line, few failed to grasp his imagery.

Lagerfeld's inspiration, it is clear, is pure Van Eyck, as though the luminous subject had stepped out of some early Flemish portrait wearing dark green and black flowing clothes touched with cuffs of fur on the upper arms and a tippet at the throat.

Buckled pumps, cavalier hats, leggings worn with quilted tunic jackets completed the picture. Despite the strength of the imagery it seemed that Lagerfeld merely applied it at the 11th hour. He would really have preferred to develop it in the richer fabrics that this strong new line deserved. There was a defiance in the way Claude Montana presented his superbly controlled collection of just 90 outfits. Stripped of excess trimming and the far-fetched topknots that he once indulged in, Montana's technical brilliance ruled. His is a clean modern line based on

trousers and balanced by his new deep cowl collars. The few skirts that he showed were long and flared.

Simple hooded "burnous" coats enfolded his trimly tailored jackets and boleros. Montana sees red as deep prune, almost the colour of chocolate, as well as a fiery scarlet and shows the various shades layered in the one outfit. His shading of fur resulted in some strange mutations of mink, in one instance graduated to look like the folds of that rare breed, the Sharpei dog.

Jean-Paul Gaultier, having brought us out to the huge hangar at La Villette which has been the scene of the customary farces that he stages each season, proceeded to school us in the new disciplines in fashion.

Gaultier, who won last season's Oscar as Designer of the Year, crammed his collection with trend-setting ideas for the fashionable to follow.

He took the basics of an everyday wardrobe and paraded them in his own whimsical style. A trenchcoat appeared in a drift of georgette or jersey. The classic detailing of a duffel was there, but on a cape. A padded oilskin or nylon parka might be a bolero or even restitched as an umbrella. Pleated school dresses and demure pinafores were slipped over leggings. These last, or simply a pair of thick tights tucked inside high boots, step out for evening worn with a black velvet jacket.



SPECIAL OFFER SASHA KAGAN KNITTING KIT



Leading knitwear designer Sasha Kagan has produced this lovely new cotton design for the summer. It is for an average knitter worked in Fair Isle and block knitting from a chart. It uses four-ply weight cotton throughout. On a cream background the flowers in pale yellow, rose pink and green are all in light pastel shades. The collar, cuffs and rib are white. It is a lovely jumper for the summer, stylish and easy to wear.

The yarn is 100% cotton and the pattern is for sizes 32in-38in. The kit comes complete with pattern and all the required yarn but does not contain needles. At £24.95 including postage and packing the kit represents excellent value for an exclusive Sasha Kagan design. Use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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Just like Loulou

Proof that there is a whole new generation of fans waiting in the wings to make Yves Saint Laurent's enduring style live on is the arrival of a 15-year-old on the Paris social scene who dazzled party-goers at a recent ball wearing her Saint Laurent turt dress. *Lucy de la Faise* has the pedigree for a style setter. Niece of London, Saint Laurent's design assistant and muse whom she greatly resembles, granddaughter of designer Maxine de la Faise and great-granddaughter of the painter Sir Oswald Birley, Lucy is tall enough to enjoy the hand-downs from her aunt of couture party clothes or a navy refer to wear to school in Fontainebleau.

However, rather than a career in fashion, Lucy plans to go to acting school. Here, in a preview for *The Times* of the Yves Saint Laurent Cabaret-inspired collection to be shown tomorrow, she wears a velvet corset dress with acid green satin faille balloon skirt.

Describing the abstract blocks of colour of the new



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BBC1

- 6.00 **Casualty** AM. (b/w). 6.55 **Weather**.
- 7.00 **Breakfast** Time with John Stapleton and Kirsty Wark. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; and weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 **News** and weather followed by **Open Air**. Eamonn Holmes receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television programmes. 9.30 **Kilroy** Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on stress. Why do some suffer more than others?
- 10.00 **News** and weather followed by **Going for Gold** (r). 10.25 **Children's BBC**. Andy Crane with programme details and birthday greetings followed by **Play School** (r), and **The Adventures of Spot** (r).
- 10.55 **Five to Eleven**. Rudolph Walker with a reading. 11.00 **News** and weather followed by **Open Air** presented by Patrice Caldwell and Eamonn Holmes.
- 12.00 **News** and weather followed by **Daytime Live**. Magazine series presented by Pamela Armstrong, Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers. 12.25 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Barker. Weather. 1.30 **Neighbours**. Helen entertains a childhood friend. 1.50 **Going for Gold**. European general knowledge quiz. 2.15 **Knots** Landing.
- 3.00 **Couples**. This first in a series of seven programmes about men and women and the lives they live together features Donald and Wendy Woods. Presented by Delys Morgan. 3.25 **The Clothes Show** includes a new-look King's uniforms; a visit to the Royal College of Arts and the latest in maternity wear.
- 3.50 **Doodle**. Cartoon series.

BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University: Living With Technology** - Sound in View. Ends at 7.30.
- 9.00 **Casualty**.
- 9.30 **Daytime on Two**: appraising the achievements of the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative. 9.52 Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots. 10.15 **Exhibition** of the stars of *George Fennell*. 10.30 **Technology** and design. 11.00 A festival celebrating the coming of spring. 11.18 **Logo**. 11.35 **Promoting anti-racism** education in schools. 11.55. **Four families** talk about technology in their lives; and what it is like to live without electricity. 12.30 **An Italian version** of a programme about a television friend. 12.50 **Part nine** of a 15-part Spanish for beginners series. 1.20 **For the young**. 1.30 A visit to a Welsh seaside resort. 2.00 **News** and weather followed by a series for four- and five-year olds.
- 2.15 **Sign Extra**. *The Wild Side of Town*, a nature programme adapted for the hearing impaired (r).
- 2.40 **Under Sail**. In praise of black-hulled Galleon cockleboys (r).
- 3.00 **News** and weather followed by **Wild World** from Aardvark to Zebra - a KJGimmaro Sketchbook. Zoologist and artist Jonathan Kingdon challenges our view of looking at animals. Narrated by Barry Paine.
- 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 **At the Archives**. The first of a new series of six programmes featuring archive home movies including, today, film of horses draw fire engines in Leeds at the turn of the century.
- 4.30 **One in Four**. Magazine series for the disabled and their families presented by Isobel Ward, Simon Barnes and Chris Davies. This month's edition includes a profile of country singer Mel Higgins.
- 5.00 **Best of Brass**. A new series of three programmes begins with performances by the Newham CWS (Glasgow), HMV Yorkshire Imperial and Leyland Vehicles bands.
- 5.30 **Gardeners' World** from Tatton Park, Cheshire (r).



David Niven: on BBC2, 9.00pm

- 6.00 **One Man and His Dog**. Heat four of the BBC International Sheepdog Championships from Ireland - John Casey, Willie McGoldrick and John Brennan.
- 6.45 **Architecture at the Crossroads**. The fourth of 10 films about contemporary architecture (r).
- 7.25 **Telethon** with Klaus Rörner and Angela O'Dwyer. The German channel, ARD and its night current affairs programme *Tagessthemen*.
- 8.00 **Treasure Houses of Britain** presented by John Julius Norwich. Including Haddon Hall by Bakewell, Wightwick Manor near Wolverhampton and Plas Newydd (r).
- 9.00 **Film: The Day Ahead** (1944, b/w) starring David Niven. Second World War drama about seven characters conscripted to serve in a light infantry unit who are trained in the alien way of life before being sent to serve in North Africa. Directed by Carol Reed. (Ceebox)
- 10.50 **Newsnight**. The latest national and international news including extended coverage of one of the main stories of the day. 11.35 **Weather**.
- 11.40 **One in Four**. A repeat of the programme shown at 4.30.
- 12.10 **Open University: States and Society**. Ends at 12.40.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** includes **Good Morning Britain** at 6.30 and 8.00. After Noon includes an interview with film director John Boorman.
- 9.25 **Thames news**.
- 9.30 **Lucky Ladders**. Word game show. 10.00 **Santa Barbara**. 10.25 **Thames headlines**.
- 10.30 **The Times**. The Place. Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject. 11.10 **Rainbow**. Puppet series for the young. 11.25 **Thames news headlines**.
- 11.30 **About Britain's Way**. Tom Wain visits Loch Maree and Glen Torridon in a remote part of the west of Scotland. 12.00 **Gas Street**. Music and chat show presented by Vince Hill.
- 12.30 **News** with Julia Summerville. 12.50 **Thames**.
- 1.00 **What's My Line?** Penelope Keith with another edition of the odd occupations panel game. 1.30 **Champion**. Investigative psychologist examines the case of the death of a cowboy film star apparently killed by burglars (r).
- 2.30 **Treatment**. Medical series presented by Josephine Buchanan. Eddie 'the Eagle' Edwards has treatment for his eyesight and there is a film report from Leeds General Infirmary on acute seathes. 3.00 **The White Staff**. Presented by Henry Kelly. With Belva Plain, author of *Golden Cup* series. Evergreen. Sally Besterman talks about her American bestseller *Destiny*; and Ted Albuhr discusses his new thriller *The Seeds of Treason*. 3.25 **Thames news headlines**. 3.50 **The Young Doctors**. Medical drama series set in a large Australian city hospital.
- 4.00 **Rainbow** (r). 4.15 **The Rainbow**. 4.30 **Thames**. 4.45 **Thames**. 4.50 **Thames**. 4.55 **Thames**. 5.00 **Thames**. 5.05 **Thames**. 5.10 **Thames**. 5.15 **Thames**. 5.20 **Thames**. 5.25 **Thames**. 5.30 **Thames**. 5.35 **Thames**. 5.40 **Thames**. 5.45 **Thames**. 5.50 **Thames**. 5.55 **Thames**. 6.00 **Thames**.

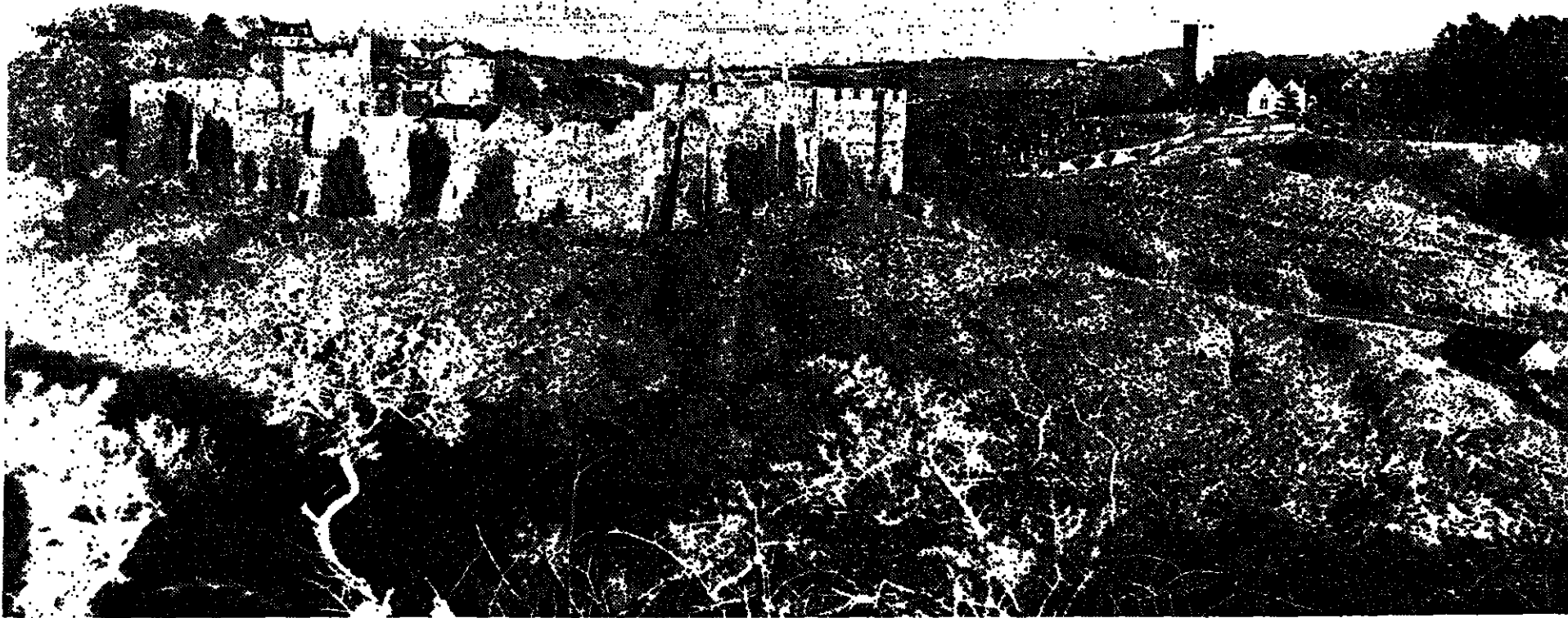
CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 **Schools**: how to make a video or tape-side presentation. 9.47 **Cloves** explore a range of mathematical ideas. 10.04 **Light-hearted sketches** involving everyday language. 10.34 **Personal problem solving** and the role of 'agony aunts'. 10.43 **Soweto 1976** remembered. 11.05 **Summer tasks** on the farm. 11.22 **Leisure activities** and planning the places for them. 11.30 **Voting for the first time** in a general election.
- 12.00 **Business Daily**. Financial and business news service presented by Susan Smith. 12.30 **4 P.m.** Programmes for young children - *Dangermouse*, *Make Music Fun* and *Simon in the Land of Chalk Drawings*.
- 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school series for children. Today's special guest is Cab Calloway.
- 2.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Nicholas Woolley. Reporters James Maza and Jackie Ashley review yesterday's debates in both Houses and look forward to those scheduled for today.
- 2.30 **Film: Mother Wore Tights** (1947) starring Bobbie and Dan Bailey. Musical comedy about the life and times of two vaudevillians whose lifestyle is frowned upon by both their parents and, eventually, their daughter. Directed by Walter Lang.
- 4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**. Fast moving general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart.
- 5.00 **Benched**. Vintage American comedy series starring Elizabeth Montgomery and Dick Sargent.
- 5.30 **The Indestructible Bee**. The first of a new six-part series following the cycle of the bee-keeping year beginning with an introduction to bee-keeping and what is needed to set up a hive. (Ceebox)
- 6.00 **Land of Hope**. Episode five of the 10-part drama serial following the lives of a Irish-Australian working class family from the late 1800s to the 1970s. Starring Drew Forsythe and Patricia Kennedy.
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Peter Sissons and Nicholas Owen.

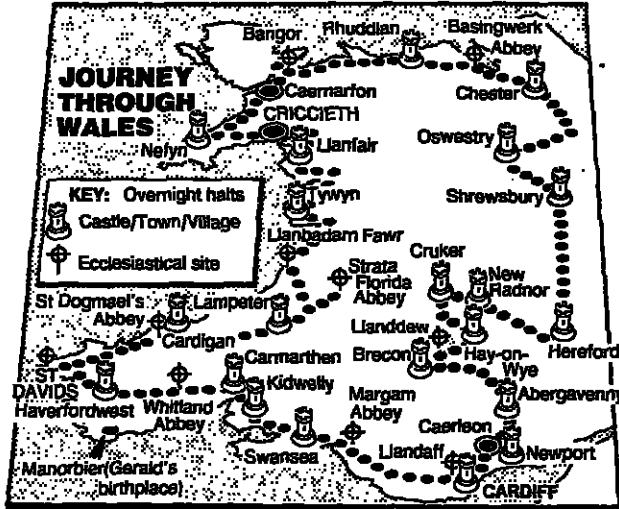
VARIATIONS

- BBC1** Wales. 6.30am-6.40am **Wales Today**. 6.45-7.00am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 7.00-7.30am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 7.30-8.00am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 8.00-8.30am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 8.30-9.00am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 9.00-9.30am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 9.30-10.00am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 10.00-10.30am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 10.30-11.00am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 11.00-11.30am **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 11.30-12.00pm **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 12.00-12.30pm **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 12.30-1.00pm **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 1.00-1.30pm **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 1.30-2.00pm **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 2.00-2.30pm **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 2.30-3.00pm **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 3.00-3.30pm **News** followed by **Welsh Today**. 3.30-4.00pm **News** followed by **Welsh 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Wales celebrates a march, 800 years on



Manorbier, birthplace of Gerald, as it is today. The castle, on the extreme south-west tip of Wales, is one of the few buildings surviving that Gerald knew (Photograph, John Rogers).



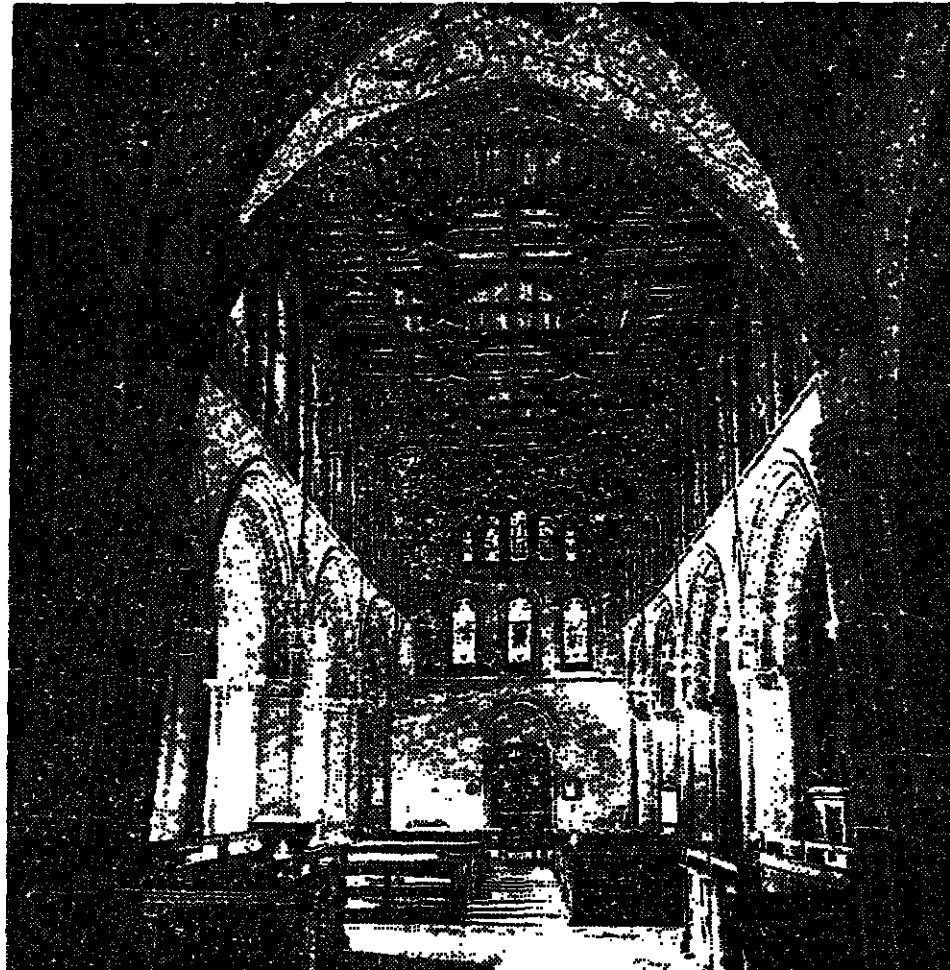
The historic march of the medieval character Gerald of Wales continues into the present day tomorrow when Cardiff celebrates his life story in a spectacular exhibition to be opened by the Prince of Wales, a distant descendant, at the National Museum of Wales.

Based on his own account of this journey around Wales in 1188 drumming up support for a Third Crusade, his story will be brought to life through the voice of Mr Anthony Hopkins, the Welsh actor.

The exhibition links the country's myriad of castles, and is an 800th anniversary

celebration of the figure from Welsh legend and the world of Welsh princes. Gerald de Barri, as he was known when he set out from Hereford on Ash Wednesday 1188, wanted to become bishop of St David's Cathedral, partly to fight for Welsh religious independence and an end to subservience to Canterbury. He and his followers rode hard for 600 miles in 51 days, through Caerleon and Bangor. Although he failed in his objective, he was lionized for his efforts.

Gerald of Wales, 1188-1988, at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff begins on Thursday until October 30.



The 12th century nave of St David's cathedral, where Gerald of Wales became the bishop.

Princess facing camps row

Continued from page 1

In reply to the Oxfam Hong Kong report, Mr David Jefferies, the colony's Secretary for Security, was quoted as saying that it exaggerated the shortage of toilets and conditions were nothing like a prison. "Refugees are given as much freedom as practically possible."

The Hong Kong Government blames the overcrowding on a huge increase in the exodus from Vietnam. In 1987 boat people arrived at a rate 65 per cent higher than in 1986, while the rate of resettlement slumped by 42 per cent.

The population of the closed camps rose from 4,400 last July to 6,400 by December. In the past many of the refugees came from South Vietnam and most had skills or spoke English. But last year 95 per cent were from the north and most were uneducated.

Iraqi chemical attack

Continued from page 1

four other small market towns in the area as well as scores of villages and hamlets near the border.

The town's imam, Sheikh Osman, and about 10,000 Kurdish separatists fled the area 10 months ago in fear of reprisals from Iraqi authorities for anti-government activities.

TEHRAN: The streets of Tehran were near-deserted yesterday as continuing missile strikes gave Iranian New Year holidaymakers an added incentive to leave the city (Reuters reports).

Tehran residents traditionally head for resorts on the Caspian Sea and elsewhere during "Nowruz" (Iranian New Year), which began on Sunday afternoon.

Commons sketch

Never such quiet over the coffins

At the start of the day, it was as if the House was self-consciously parodying its own absurdities, and as if this form of self-abasement was judged the only preface appropriate to the awful seriousness of the impending discussion of events in the outside world.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens had been speaking on the use of aerosols in Westminster; Mr Harry Greenway had been speaking on the elimination of Perrier water from Westminster. Mr Frank Haynes had described himself as "ashamed and disgusted" by the drinking of Perrier in the Palace of Westminster. Thus the gargoyles, spitting and spluttering and cackling and cawing, marched in front of the coffins.

In a House where overstatement and exaggeration is the very breath of life, it comes hard for members to use words as if they had any inner meaning, any core of sincerity. The problem is this: if someone has just pronounced himself "ashamed and disgusted" at the drinking of fizzy French water, what words can he then employ when describing the murder of fellow human beings?

The comic drama of Westminster has parodied all the words of real outrage and real sympathy for so long that when its actors open their mouths to say something they really feel, the sound that emerges seems slightly more useless than silence.

When Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, began to read his statement on the terrorist murders in Northern Ireland, the atmosphere in the House became sombre and deadly, reminiscent of the funeral atmosphere after the Enniskillen murders.

Over the next hour, Mr King would use every conceivable word and combination of words to express his disgust at what had happened - horrific, sickening, awful, outrage, new depths of horror, tragic, utter barbarity - but those words seemed to have lost their power as weapons of truth. Only the tone that surrounded the worn-out words, a tone at once shaking, upset, decent, passionately unorthodox, made clear the sincerity of their speaker.

The Prime Minister, dressed all in black, her hands

together, often looked downwards, and when she started about her grim expression did not alter.

There was never such quiet in the House, Dennis Skinner silent, Eric Forth silent. All the good-time, shoutabout boogies; silent. Ken Livingstone absent. No one was chatting, no one quipping. It was as if the actors had abandoned their roles, and now weren't quite sure who they were meant to be instead.

Mr Kevin McNamara, for the Labour Party, said that it was important that "we in this House retain cool heads". He thought that the elected leaders should "come together with goodwill and no preconditions". He thought it was "an appalling and difficult issue", and he vaguely thought most of the other things that good-hearted outsiders have vaguely been thinking for the past 20 years.

Mr John Hume said that "the dictionary is no longer full enough to produce proper words of condemnation and feelings of revulsion". He thought that a full police presence would have resulted in a lot more deaths.

How does he know? How does he know? A Unionist on the bench behind him yelled. As Mr Hume spoke of the need for dialogue, the Rev William McCrea (DUP) loudly muttered something or other about blackmail, but others whose screams were normally heard pined for the awful hush, even pierced, like Mr Peter Robinson, silent, or like Mr Ian Paisley, not present.

Impossible to find adequate words, impossible to find adequate words... The English response continued, sincere and hopeless; but Mr Ken Maginnis (OUP) wished to condemn the SDLP for their "placardous words" and the Roman Catholic church for its "blasphemous words".

Only the Rev William McCrea seemed still to trust in the value of words; and his voice, hurt and cracking, said that he had held the coffins of the young, and he didn't need lectures on how he meant to feel.

"It's different when you're living with this day after day," he said, and he sounded as if he might be crying.

Craig Brown

Talks on security to reopen

Continued from page 1

working class republican ghettos which are the hotbeds of the trouble.

Mr King is likely to impress upon Mr Lohan the British Government's anxiety that the security forces should be allowed to operate more effectively to stem the rising tide of murders in the province - 21 people have died in the violence since January.

The latest casualty was Police Constable Clive Graham, aged 25, and single, from Cloughmills, Co Antrim, shot by the IRA as he patrolled in Londonderry.

In Belfast yesterday, where police were continuing to study the film of the incident in which the two soldiers died, an official appeal was made by the RUC for witnesses of any of the incidents of violence last week to come forward.

Their bodies are to be returned to Britain within the next 24 hours, the Army said at Lisburn last night. Funeral arrangements are to be decided by the families.

Earlier in the day 600lb of explosives were found in a coal bunker in Friendly Way, Belfast after police raided a house. A woman has been arrested.

Beggar laws

Singapore (Reuters) - Singapore has said it plans to legislate against beggars because they were more in need of discipline than care. The present law, which prescribes no punishment, would be amended so that habitual beggars could be charged in court. He did not say what penalties would be proposed.

BP is fined £750,000

Continued from page 1

Mossie Road, Cowdenbeath, and Philip Mellon, aged 35, of Burnside Crescent, Stotts, were killed, and Allan Bisset, of Avon Court, Halken, Falkirk, and Ian Taylor of Harchill Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, suffered severe burns in the first explosion.

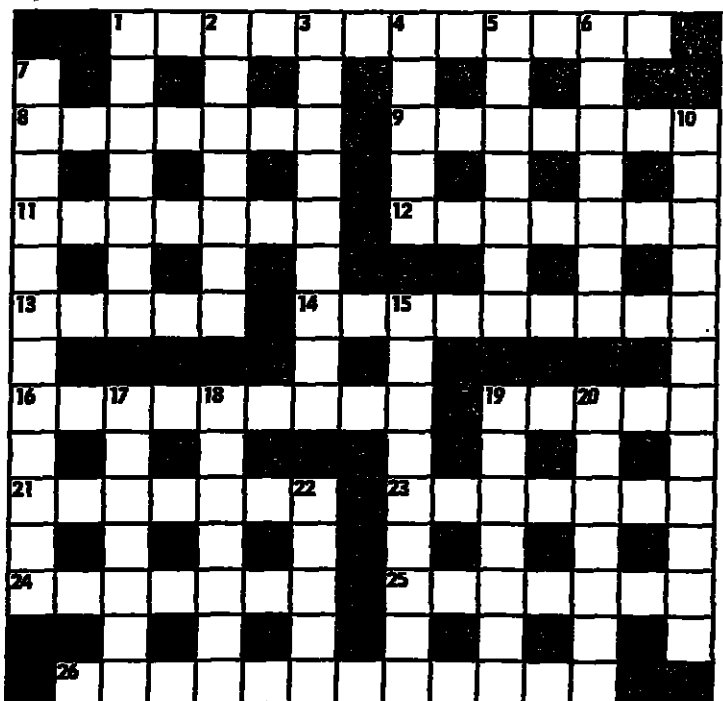
The company further admitted that nine days later, on March 22 last year, it had failed to maintain a safe system of work at a hydro-cracker unit. A low-pressure vessel had exploded, propelling pieces of metal for more

than half a mile. George Spiers, aged 52, a crane driver, of Cloisters Avenue, Airdrie, was killed when gases ignited.

Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, the Lord Advocate, said that in the first incident three men started to undo bolts and saw a clear liquid dripping out. They were told it was safe to continue, but when they resumed work a torrent of liquid poured out and began vaporizing.

An inquiry after the second blast found trip mechanisms on control valves were not working.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,623



ACROSS

- Old weapon used to dismember the high command (12).
- Artisan cooks for the Empress (7).
- They precede solo violinists (7).
- First-class row about river transport system (7).
- Game to provide containers without a word of thanks (7).
- Agree the score (5).
- Scruffy comrade about to parade (9).
- A guarantee of self-confidence (9).
- One of the upper set perhaps gets engaged (5).
- Game finished off by female sportsman (7).
- Companion in a Sumerian city, working without pay (7).
- Film showing his characters by a mountain lake (7).
- Stockpile for part-time soldiers (7).
- Store-keeper giving porcelain to doctor (12).

DOWN

- Having picked it, Tweedledum and Tweedledee quite forgot it (7).
- Sourness? Detectives observed it in a youth leader (7).
- Ag Baker killed, overwhelmed by winds (9).
- Object surviving in one dm, I concluded (5).
- He prescribes exercises and sends climbers up the wall (7).
- Design that's safer for the plant (7).
- Severe restriction for reeler, possibly, under water? (6-6).
- Musician from Marrakesh initially entertaining nervous crowds, perhaps (5-7).
- Encyclopaedia to this extent includes the Hunter river (9).
- Places bathers come to for sun and song (7).
- "Wherefore...? What conquest brings he home?" (J Caesar) (7).
- Beam, having fixed release after tea, say (7).
- Railwayman upset about starting flood? (7).
- Swift brute resembling a man (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

ARCHITECTURE
By Philip Howard

- TOUCH**
a. Thrust of a flying buttress
b. A Belgian marble
c. The springer of a vault
- CLAPPER BRIDGE**
a. Norman moulding
b. A stone bridge
c. A massive vice
- VOUSSOIR**
a. The theme of a vault
b. The spout of a gargoyle
c. A stone of an arch
- LYNCHET**
a. A terrace
b. A diagonal beam
c. A Saxon quota

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,622

CAMEL
GARDEN
NARRATIVE
OVERT
ALARMING
TRIM
ORANGE
SILVER
GOLD
ENRIE

WEATHER

Brighter, showery conditions will replace early rain in Northern Ireland, Wales and south-west England. Western Scotland and the rest of England will begin dry with some morning sun in the east. Rain will spread to all areas, with some heavy falls especially in the south. Brighter, showery weather will replace rain in central, southern and north-west England and western Scotland in the afternoon. Outlook: changeable, with sunny or clear spells and showers.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	15-20	SE	1-3
Amman	15-20	SE	1-3
Baghdad	15-20	SE	1-3
Bombay	15-20	SE	1-3
Buenos Aires	15-20	SE	1-3
Calcutta	15-20	SE	1-3
Cairo	15-20	SE	1-3
Cardiff	15-20	SE	1-3
Chennai	15-20	SE	1-3
Copenhagen	15-20	SE	1-3
Dublin	15-20	SE	1-3
Edinburgh	15-20	SE	1-3
Geneva	15-20	SE	1-3
Hong Kong	15-20	SE	1-3
London	15-20	SE	1-3
Lyons	15-20	SE	1-3
Madrid	15-20	SE	1-3
Moscow	15-20	SE	1-3
New York	15-20	SE	1-3
Paris	15-20	SE	1-3
Rome	15-20	SE	1-3
Seoul	15-20	SE	1-3
Shanghai	15-20	SE	1-3
Singapore	15-20	SE	1-3
Tokyo	15-20	SE	1-3
Winnipeg	15-20	SE	1-3
Zurich	15-20	SE	1-3

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	15-20	SE	1-3
Cardiff	15-20	SE	1-3
Belfast	15-20	SE	1-3
Manchester	15-20	SE	1-3
Edinburgh	15-20	SE	1-3
Glasgow	15-20	SE	1-3
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Sheffield	15-20	SE	1-3
Nottingham	15-20	SE	1-3
Leeds	15-20	SE	1-3
Sheff	15-20	SE	1-3
Cardiff	15-20	SE	1-

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1462.7 (-14.1)

FT-SE 100
1841.1 (-14.4)

Bargains
31558 (40559)

USM (Datastream)
151.68 (+0.6)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8265 (+0.0040)

W German mark
3.0859 (+0.0004)

Trade-weighted
77.0 (+0.1)

£66m bid
for fund
manager

Throgmorton Trust, the £400 million authorized investment trust, has made a £66 million bid for the Framlington investment management group, which manages Throgmorton and shares three directors.

The bid will be considered at a Framlington board meeting today but it is by no means certain that the other Framlington directors, headed by Mr Bill Sturtford, the chairman, and Mr Tim Miller, managing director, will approve it. They made it clear yesterday that they preferred to remain independent or come under the wing of a bigger financial institution.

The bid, which is in loan stock convertible into Throgmorton Trust shares, values each Framlington share at 192p compared with a price of 170p, up 4p, before the terms were announced.

IMI ahead

IMI, the engineering and building products group, made £92.3 million pretax profit in 1987 against £73.3 million in 1986. The final dividend of 4.25p takes the total to 7p, an increase of 1p.

Memec gain

Memec (Memory & EC), the computer group, lifted pretax profits to £6.5 million in the year to end-December from £4.6 million the previous year. The total dividend rises 25 per cent to 4.125p.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2058.52 (-28.85)
Dow Jones	
Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong	2802.20 (-4.80)
Hang Seng	
Amersterdam Gen	252.5 (-2.2)
Sydney AO	1432.2 (-17.5)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1444.4 (-13.1)
General	4953.8 (+35.2)
Paris CAC	298.6 (-0.6)
Zurich S&K Gen	481.5 (-3.8)
London	
FT-30 All-Share	1462.7 (-14.1)
FT-100	1841.1 (-14.4)
FT Gold Mines	242.3 (+1.4)
FT Fixed Interest	97.23 (-0.22)
FT Govt Secs	98.14 (-0.18)
Recent issues	Page 31
Closing prices	Page 33

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Int'l Thomson	905p (+20p)
Bodycote	274p (+2p)
Parmalat	250p (+17p)
Pearson	657p (+11p)
Savoy Hotels 'A'	852p (+15p)
J Smurfit	405p (+10p)
Calsonic	187p (+20p)
Saga Holidays	182p (+11p)
Canterbury	192p (+12p)
Copcon	130p (+25p)
Amber Ind	340p (+10p)

FALLS:	
WPP	531p (-23p)
VG Investments	635p (-22p)
Industriell	571p (-25p)
Cable & Wireless	335p (-12p)
Sun Alliance	225p (-12p)
Reliance	460p (-15p)
Glass Glover	240p (-10p)
Compani	251p (-10p)
Enterprise OS	346p (-11p)
Closing prices	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	8 1/4%
3-month interbank:	8 1/4-8 1/2%
3-month eligible bills:	8 1/4-8 1/2%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate:	8 1/2%
Federal Funds:	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury:	5.73-5.71%
30-year bonds:	10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London:		New York:	
£/\$	1.8265	£/\$	1.8272
£/DM	1.6592	£/DM	1.6592
£/SwF	2.5334	£/SwF	2.5334
£/FF	10.4841	£/FF	10.4841
£/Yen	251.78	£/Yen	251.78
£/Indones	125.59	£/Indones	125.59
£/Ecu	10.89908	£/Ecu	10.89908

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$445.50 pm \$449.25	
close \$450.00-450.50 (\$248.00-248.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$450.20-450.70	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May):	pm \$15.40 bid
* Denotes latest trading price	

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Parnes 'may
make a deal'

Former Guinness broker
could seek immunity

By Lawrence Lever in London and Ian Kimbrey in Los Angeles

Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker at the centre of the Guinness affair, may be prepared to act as a witness for the prosecution in the trial of those accused of criminal offences, in return for some form of legal immunity.

Sources close to the investigation say that Mr Parnes may also be willing to provide information on his role in the takeover of Debenhams by the Burton Group in August 1985. This takeover is already subject to an inquiry by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Parnes's evidence is likely to be extremely valuable, as he has been a personal stockbroker to a number of prominent businessmen.

Mr Parnes has spent the past six months in a Los Angeles prison. He is currently facing extradition proceedings from the US for his role in the Guinness affair.

His extradition hearing was recently deferred for two days at the request of his legal advisers. It is scheduled to take place on Thursday.

The evidence which has

already been put forward on Mr Parnes's behalf to resist his extradition is prejudicial to a number of those involved in the Guinness affair.

This evidence refers to "phony invoices" submitted by one of the accused in the affair.

It also refers to an alleged attempt to disguise the payment of fees, running into millions of pounds, which involved Mr Ephraim Margulies, the chairman of S&W Berisford, the commodities dealer.

Mr Margulies, who has not

been charged with criminal offences arising out of his involvement with Guinness, has denied this aspect of Mr Parnes's evidence. He claims that he did not act improperly.

Mr Olivier Roux, the former Guinness finance director who has been co-operating with the Fraud Squad and the DTI in their inquiries, is likely to give useful evidence in some of the Guinness prosecutions pending in Britain. Evidence from Mr Parnes would also be important.

Mr Roux was closely involved in making payments to Guinness which have subsequently led to theft charges against a number of people. Mr Roux himself has not been charged with any offence.

Although Mr Roux's evidence is vital to the prosecution, the case against the accused would be strengthened if Mr Parnes was also prepared to testify.

There has been some concern that the prosecution case relied too heavily on the evidence of Mr Roux alone.

Parnes: valuable evidence



'Lyons given £5m to
manage by Saunders'

By Our City Staff

Sir Jack Lyons was given £5 million of Guinness money to manage on a discretionary basis, on the instructions of Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman of the company, who considered him "a top notch manager of money".

The claim is made in an £85 page statement from Mr Olivier Roux, the former Guinness finance director.

The statement is filed as part of the evidence in the Los Angeles extradition proceedings for Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker.

The evidence also chronicles the deteriorating relationship between Mr Roux and Mr Saunders, which reached the point where the two men were not talking to each other.

It also highlights the considerable influence on Guinness's strategy exercised by Bain & Co, the US management consultants.

Mr Roux says in his evidence: "In about late 1984 Sir Jack Lyons was retained by Ernest Saunders to advise Guinness on retail work. He was paid a standing fee of \$3,000 per month on an ongoing basis..."

"Sir Jack was also being rated by Ernest Saunders as a top notch manager of money."

Ernest Saunders introduced him to Lord Boyd, the deputy chairman of Guinness, as the chairman of the Guinness UK pension fund to advise in the management of the investments of the fund.

"Ernest Saunders also decided to give £5 million to Sir Jack from Guinness plc's own funds to manage on a discretionary basis."

There is no suggestion that there is anything illegal in the arrangements claimed by Mr Roux. Sir Jack's solicitors refused to comment on them yesterday.

Mr Roux says that at the outset of the Guinness bid for Distillers he and Mr Saunders were "reasonably close although the relationship was never one of equals".

"During the course of the bid the relationship deteriorated. At the end of the bid our relationship was strained and he was hardly talking to me."

In December 1986, after the DTI inspectors moved into Guinness, things became even worse. According to Mr Roux, by this time "my relationship with Ernest Saunders had deteriorated to the extent that I was no longer in contact with him".

Mr Roux says that Mr Saunders was primarily a

marketing man. He says Mr Saunders had a good knowledge of finance, although adding that "there were certain financial aspects that he did not really understand".

"This became clear to me in the Distillers bid when we were faced with the decision to increase the offer a second time. He did not seem to be able to comprehend why, by creating further dilution, it would be counter productive."

Mr Roux says that one of the main hallmarks of Bain & Co is that "it is an extremely secretive organization and insists on the need for confidentiality amongst all its staff, both in relation to its own affairs and those of its clients".

In 1982 Bain devised a preliminary five-year plan for Guinness which "involved an initial two-year plan of austerity... rationalization and retrenchment which would then be followed by a three-year programme of development".

Mr Roux says that Guinness was the largest client of Bain's European practice. In 1984 it identified Arthur Bell & Son as "a clear top candidate" for acquisition.

"Distillers had been dismissed as too large".

Rugby Group up to £51.4m

By Michael Tate

Rugby Group, the cement to timber products company, lifted profits by 45 per cent, from £35.46 million to £51.43 million in 1987, and then topped them up with a £7.45 million pension fund surplus.

There is also a £12.7 million below-the-line profit on the sale of the group's anachronistic Perth, Australia, hotel, which had helped replace borrowings of £50 million with a net cash figure of £9 million.

Group turnover was up by 28.3 per cent, at £401.9 million against £313.3 million, reflecting the boom conditions

existing in the British construction industry, but the management team, under managing director Mr Andrew Teare, beefed up margins by cutting overheads.

Earnings per share spurred by 38.5 per cent from 16.1p to 22.3p, ignoring the exceptional pension fund item, and the group is lifting the final dividend from 3.9p to 4.75p, making 8.5p for the year against 7p last time.

Mr Teare says that cost-cutting in the cement division, which contributes only half of the group's turnover, combined with the higher business

volumes to more than compensate for the downward pressure on price margins after the recent scrapping of the price cartel. Trading profits were up from £16.45 million to £21.62 million.

The John Carr joinery operations benefited from production and product rationalization, after the integration of the Rothwell business, and produced £15.9 million against £10.5 million.

The pension fund surplus consists of a £4.75 million gross cash refund and a five year pensions holiday.

Temps, page 26

Departures save \$2m in salaries

Downturn 'unlikely' for WPP

By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs Correspondent

The unexpected departure of six key executives from Lord Geller, the US advertising agency subsidiary of WPP, the marketing services group, will result in initial savings of \$2 million (£1.1 million) in salaries. And industry sources are confident that the departures will not result in a downturn in annual profits.

The six include Mr Richard Lord, chief executive; Mr Arthur Einstein, president; Mr Kevin O'Neill, executive vice-president and creative director; Mr Lewis Eichenholz, the finance director; and two account executives announced their departure last week surprising both the industry and head office.

The six are setting up a new agency under the name Lord, Einstein, O'Neill and Partners.

Rubicon with about a 40 per cent stake on total capital of under \$10 million. The backing suggests a stable partnership which may attract some future clients.

WPP shares fell 23p to 532p yesterday.

Meanwhile Lord, Geller's biggest client, IBM, which represents about 45 per cent of its business - totalling \$30 million in revenue and about \$200 million in billings on pretax profits of \$4 million - has indicated that it will probably not move with the new group.

Since about 150 of Lord Geller's 340-strong staff service the IBM account, there should thus be little impact on the 1989 profits. But the New Yorker magazine and New York's WNBC-TV have said they are considering the new agency. Mr Martin Sorrell and his team at WPP will have to ensure the rapid promotion of some remaining staff or direct replacements for the departing executives.

The move towards the exodus has been developing since WPP's ambitious \$556 million (£311 million) takeover of the American JWT group last July. The Lord, Geller executives, highly regarded for their creativity, tried several times to buy back the agency but were refused.

A new dispute broke out when the executives discussed handling General Motors's Saturn car account. This pitch for the account was stopped by WPP when it heard about it because J Walter Thompson handles the Ford Motor Company account and that would have produced a conflict of interest.

Other problems between the two sides of the group included disagreements over incentives and reward issues.

An internal memo sent last week to staff by the departing six said: "Many issues have arisen relating to freedom to do business in an autonomous manner. It is now clear that our philosophies do not mesh."

Suter profits leap 79% to £26.7m



Strong advance: David Abell at his merchant bank yesterday (Photograph: John Rogers)

No DTI
'insider'
inquiry,
says Abell

By Allison Eadie

Mr David Abell, the chairman of Suter, the fast-growing industrial holding company, said yesterday that as far as he knew neither the Department of Trade and Industry nor the Stock Exchange was investigating allegations of insider trading made against him in a Channel 4 television programme last year.

Mr Abell is suing Channel 4 for alleged libel. He said that on two or three occasions he had bought shares for his personal account in companies that Suter later acquired. The circumstances on those occasions changed dramatically, Mr Abell said, and added that the manner in which they changed was an integral part of the case against Channel 4.

He said he hoped such circumstances would not arise again. All executives of Suter now reported personal share dealings to Robert Fleming, the company's merchant bank.

Suter reported a 79 per cent increase to £26.7 million in pretax profits in the year to the end of December, on turnover 42 per cent higher at £190.4 million. The total dividend was raised to 5p from 4.2p, an effective 43 per cent increase after the one-for-five scrip issue last year.

The retained operations of Mitchell Cotts, the overseas trader acquired for £79 million last July, contributed £2.8 million to profit.

Mr Abell said the opportunity last week to acquire 20.47 per cent of Newman Industries from the Australian Winterbottom Holdings was too good to miss. The holding in Newman is now 28 per cent.

Mr Abell said Suter shares - trading on a historic p/e ratio of only nine - had been badly depressed by the Channel 4 programme. They rose 3p to 170p.

Peachey final bid
fails to woo Epic

By Our City Staff

Peachey Property Corporation is lifting its bid for Estates Property Investment Company to 260p a share to reflect the effective elimination of Epic's capital gains tax liability as a result of the Budget.

The Budget changes relating to pre-1982 capital gains cut the contingent liability from 31p to 9p a share, Epic says. But the increased bid, which has been declared final, has not won over the Epic board.

Epic last night "strongly advised" shareholders to take no action on the higher offer until it has conveyed its detailed views on the offer and until the outcome of discussions with other potential offerors is known.

The company disclosed at the weekend that there had been other approaches, and it was confirmed yesterday that discussions are going on with

more than one potential bidder. The possible rival bidders are working on the assumption that they can gain a recommendation to their offer.

Mr Dennis Poole, the managing director of Epic, said that while he had always claimed that the contingent tax liability was unlikely to be relevant to a property company which operates as a going concern, "a substantial reduction in this liability means that Peachey's offer is all the more inadequate."

Mr John Brown, Peachey's managing director, said that he looked upon the offer as a property deal.

In the market, the 20p increase in the bid pushed the Epic price beyond the 260p level to 262p, which means that Peachey cannot buy.

Comment, page 27

Beazer
lines up
knockout
US bid

By Cliff Feltham

Beazer, the British building group, delivered what it hoped was a knockout blow yesterday when it raised its bid for Koppers, the American aggregates business, to \$1.6 billion (£888 million).

Mr Brian Beazer, chairman of the Bath-based group, lifted his offer to \$56 a share, an \$11 improvement on the earlier bid worth £720 million, which has been consistently rejected by the board of the US company.

There was no reaction to the higher offer last night from Koppers.

The bid is being made through a specially formed associate company, BNS, which is 49 per cent owned by Beazer with the rest held by Beazer's British and American merchant banks - County NatWest holding 4.9 per cent and Shearson Lehman Brothers 46.1 per cent. Of the additional \$300 million being offered, Beazer will be responsible for only \$34 million in direct equity.

Mr Beazer said in a letter to Koppers' chairman, Mr Charles Pullin, at the weekend: "We believe that this offer represents excellent value for your shareholders. I also believe that you and your board of directors have a fiduciary obligation both to remove all existing impediments to acceptances of such a transaction and not to create any additional obstacles that would interfere in any way with the ability of your shareholders to consider it."

"I wish to reiterate my willingness to meet with you at any time to discuss a transaction that would provide full and fair value for your shareholders and satisfy our respective business interests and objectives."

Beazer has about 7 per cent of the Koppers equity but as much as 25 per cent is now thought to be in the hands of arbitrageurs who effectively control the future of the company. The increased offer from Beazer of \$56 compares with a closing price in New York on Friday of \$53.75.

Last week, Koppers said it was exploring, among other defences, a plan to break up the company and pay a one-off dividend to shareholders in an effort to fight off the bid.

Beazer has a five-year option to take out its partners in BNS and take full control of Koppers if its bid succeeds.

It said last night that the business would be run by Mr Thomas Howard, chairman and chief executive of Gifford-Hill, the Texas manufacturer of cement and construction materials which it acquired in October 1986.

CLUTTONS
Chartered Surveyors

45 BERKELEY SQUARE LONDON W1

From 22nd March Cluttons will be consolidating its Great College Street and Grosvenor Street offices in a move to a new head office at 45 Berkeley Square.

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Telephone: 01-408 1010 Telex: 23620 Fax: 01-629 3263

CLUTTONS
NEW HEAD OFFICE

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TSB and Saga aiming services at over-60s

TSB Group and Saga Holidays said they planned to market financial and travel services to their respective customers in the over-60s age bracket. Mr Brian Brown, director of TSB Trust Company, said the direct marketing of life insurance to Saga clients could bring "hundreds of millions of pounds" in revenue. He said the TSB subsidiary would also promote unit trusts and other investment products to 3.5 million households on Saga's mailing lists.

Saga will market its holidays to 2 million TSB customers over 60. The cross-selling will be done through specialist magazines aimed at each group's age-qualifying customers. Mr Roger de Haan, Saga chairman, said together the two groups would reach almost half of Britain's over-60s.

Senior buys Moducel

Senior Engineering Group has paid £5.8 million for Moducel, a Stoke-on-Trent manufacturer of air-handling units for air-conditioning systems. Of the acquisition price, £5.6 million will be paid in cash, the balance being covered by the issue of 360,000 Senior shares. In 1987, Moducel made pretax profits of about £725,000, and on December 31 its net assets were worth £2.45 million.

Garton ahead to £803,000

Garton Engineering, the West Midlands fastener and metal component manufacturer, lifted profits from £621,000 to £803,000 in 1987, and is raising its final dividend from 3p to 3.75p, making 5p for the year, against 4p. Including a £27,000 profit on a property sale, earnings per share are up by 2p, to 15.05p. With capacity now almost fully utilized, Garton has plans to expand.

Ansett buys into airline

The Ansett group of Australia has agreed to pay Aus\$7.5 million (£3.03 million) for 25 per cent of Ladeo, Chile's second largest airline. TNT, the world's largest freight handler, and The News Corporation, the parent company of News International, owner of *The Times*, share control of Ansett, which employs more than 13,000 people worldwide and has assets exceeding US\$1.6 billion (£878 million). Ladeo began 30 years ago as the airline serving Chile's copper mines. It now covers more than 60 per cent of Chilean domestic passenger service and runs regular flights to Miami in the United States and most important Latin American cities, including Asunción, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Bogotá.

Unipart rises to £12.27m

Unipart, the car components group, made pretax profits of £12.27 million in 1987 - its first full year as a private sector company after being hived off from the Rover Group. Pretax profits for 1986 were £9.11 million. Sales rose to £428.06 million, up 15 per cent. Mr John Neill, chief executive, said the 1987 results were "much better than forecast, with sales, profits, and assets all beating the company's plan."

Wehmiller up to £2.1m

Turnover at Barry Wehmiller International, the specialist packaging equipment company, increased by 21 per cent to £14.8 million, in the six months to January 31 1988, lifting profits before tax from £1.56 million to £2.15 million. There is an interim dividend of 1.5p. The company, which came to market last May, says three acquisitions it has made should provide a substantial contribution to growth.

Singapore bank slips

Singapore's Overseas Union Bank said its group net profit fell to Sing\$34.17 million (£9.16 million) for the year to December 31, down 4.5 per cent from Sing\$35.77 million in 1986, mainly due to the October market crash. The crash was reflected in the group's second-half results when profits plunged 60 per cent to Sing\$6.67 million, the bank said.

The group's earnings per share dropped to 11.1 cents in 1987 from 11.6 cents in 1986 but net tangible assets per share increased by 6 cents to Sing\$2.19. The directors will propose a final dividend of 2.5 per cent gross against nil for 1986, making a total dividend of 7.5 per cent for 1987 against 6 per cent in 1986. The proposed final dividend, if approved, will be paid on May 27 to shareholders registered on May 14.

Dynamic Rugby in impressive form

Were he alive today, Sir Halford Reddish would surely be beaming with pride. For 28 years in succession, until he stepped down in 1976 at the age of 78, Sir Halford delivered profit increases to shareholders in Rugby Portland Cement.

But while Rugby certainly performed under Sir Halford, it could never be accused of being dynamic. How things change. Rugby Group, as it is now, is run by younger men, and, quietly, they have recreated it as a widespread building products group.

A 45 per cent surge in pretax profits in 1987, from £35.46 million to £51.43 million, on turnover up by 28.3 per cent at £402 million, illustrates the progress they have made. While snack in line with analysts' predictions, it was none the less impressive for that.

Acquisitions accounted for only about £4 million of the increased profit, so organic growth was about 33 per cent. Most encouraging of all has been the continued success of the group in its traditional cement business. Cement now accounts for barely more than half the group's turnover, as the new team's diversification strategy has taken it exten-

sively into the joinery business, to help limit the potential from the ending of the cement cartel.

Yet, though joinery lives off slimmer margins than cement, the group as a whole, which has long had a reputation for keeping its costs under better control than most, improved margins from 11.5 to 12.8 per cent. And not a price rise in sight.

Rugby enters 1988 with profits growth continuing in all departments, and totally short of debt. It will not be long before it is on the acquisition trail again, this time beefing up its European operations, following the recent acquisition of the French glass group, Verlat. Its flirtation with Europe is cemented by a growing involvement with Eurotunnel.

Ignoring potential profits from newly acquired businesses, Rugby looks capable of making £64 million before tax this year, producing earnings per share of 29.2p. So at 26p the shares are selling for a little prospective earnings, a little cheaper than Hepworth Ceramic, Tarmac and Itstock, which is the kind of company it keeps these days.

The yield is a useful 5.5 per cent, the downside is strictly limited, and for investors who believe in strong dynamic management the shares have much still to commend them.

Booker

Exposed to the vagaries of the weather and with the threat from disease ever present, agriculture is a risky business. In Booker's case, the risks are reduced by the wide spread of its interests from poultry breeding in the US, forestry and salmon farming in Scotland, seed breeding and mushroom growing.

Worldwide, at least one in three chickens and every other turkey comes from Booker's breeding stock. In the US, it is the clear market leader: it has more than 60 per cent of the market for chickens and 90 per cent for turkeys.

Due to its involvement in both forestry and salmon farming, Booker has also had to contend with the environmentalists. Depending on the structure of new forestry grant schemes, Tilhill, Booker's forestry subsidiary, could find its business affected by the removal of tax incentives on forestry as it relied on high-earning forestry investors for its planting contracts.

Despite the wrath of the environmentalists, who say salmon farming pollutes the

sea bed, is unsightly, and has an adverse impact on other wildlife, Booker's salmon farming project in Vancouver is expected to move into profit in 1989, its fifth year of operation. The group has plans to start farming sea bass and bream in warmer-water environments.

Booker's business risks are also reduced by its presence in health care and wholesale food distribution.

A disappointing performance from health food brands resulted in lower profits from its Holland & Barrett subsidiary and the group has decided to sell those brands where it has no manufacturing capability. It has already sold the Prewetts and Heath and Heather food brands, leaving it with Allinsons, best known for its stoneground bread made by Garry Weston's ABF.

To further strengthen this business, Booker plans to extend its range into health-related, non-food ranges, bringing it into head-on competition with The Body Shop.

Analysts are looking for a profits increase this year of about 12 per cent to £72 million, putting the group on a market-average rating. However, the prospective yield is nearly 6 per cent, making the shares attractive to investors.

encouraged by last Tuesday's higher-tax cuts to go for high-income stocks.

IMI

IMI has deservedly shed its metal-bashing image over the past few years, even if the stock market sometimes finds it difficult to come to grips with a group whose activities span engineering, building products and fluid controls.

IMI, now one of the country's largest industrial groups, generating more than half its business overseas, unveiled pretax profits up 26 per cent for last year at £92.3 million - the fifth year running in which profits have gone up by more than 25 per cent.

The growth was fuelled by a firm advance in all its industrial markets, helped by contributions from acquisitions which have been successfully integrated into the group, which is now able to report a 10 per cent return on sales.

The building products division, which takes in copper tanks to shower fittings and radiator valves, increased its contribution from £15.3 million to £20.8 million on the back of increased spending on home improvements.

The drinks dispensing op-

eration - IMI is now the world leader - came back strongly after two relatively quiet years, with profits up from £13.8 million to £17.2 million.

IMI's expanding interests in fluid controls, benefiting from the 1986 acquisition of Martonair, generated profits of more than £29 million, compared with £21.7 million before, while IMI's special engineering side moved ahead from £14.6 million to £17.4 million.

The only hiccup came from the refined and wrought metals side, where newly privatized Rolls-Royce, the main customer for IMI's titanium alloys, decided to reduce the level of its stocks, clipping profits by between £1 million and £2 million and leaving the division with profits of £13.5 million, against £14.7 million. IMI is now looking to more higher added-value products for titanium in the aerospace industry.

Sustaining its recent growth rate will present IMI with an uphill task, and more modest progress looks likely. The shares, 3p easier yesterday at 208p, have recovered ground since suffering badly in the October crash. At current levels they look to be good value.

STOCK MARKET

Shares slide as Wall St fears increase

Share prices opened the long, three-week Easter account on a flat note yesterday with investors in London expressing concern about the cracks which have started to appear on Wall Street following its recent strong run.

There are fears that New York could be heading for a nosedive, having recovered to the sort of levels in the past few days that have not been seen since the crash in October.

American economists and commentators are complaining that brokers and investors have learned nothing from the lessons of Black Monday and are apparently convinced that it could never happen again.

But their fears were reflected in resumed trading on Wall Street yesterday after the weekend break with the Dow Jones industrial average recording an opening fall of 23 points in the first few hours of trading. Some of the forecasters are giving a warning that further sharp falls are likely.

But market-makers in London did not appear troubled by the bearish sentiment which was in stark contrast to

Friday's sharp rise in share prices. Most of them were more irritated by the boredom and lack of activity than anything else.

Turnover remained low with just 357.3 million shares traded on the Stock Ex-

change's computerized trading system. The FT-SE 100 closed at about its lowest levels of the day with a fall of 14.4 to 1,841.1. The narrower FT index of 30 shares also fell 14.1, to 1,462.7.

Government securities never recovered from early losses stretching to 5p.

Leaders bore the brunt of the falls with Glaxo down 21p to £10.61 and ICI, 13p to £10.45. But Lloyds, the international trader, was a firm

spot, recovering an early, 2p fall to finish 1p dearer at 254p. This followed revived speculation that the group is about to sell off its Volkswagen distribution business.

Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining finance house, enjoyed an early run higher and touched 948p before running out of steam to close a net 5p up at 943p in thin turnover which saw only 1.5 million shares changing hands.

The appearance of a mystery buyer has put brokers on their guard and has been responsible for the rise of almost 90p in the price during the past week. ConsGold is constantly being mentioned as a possible break-up situation and the near-30 per cent stake held by Mr Harry Oppenheimer has only added to recent speculation. Dealers claim that it would be the ideal target for Hanson which has specialized in buying assets and selling them off at a profit over the years.

But ConsGold still has big interests in South Africa which might concern Hanson which has big US connections - unless it can arrange a deal to sell them on to somebody such as Mr Oppenheimer.

Market men are still trying to establish the identity of the buyer but have met with little luck. One broker said: "He has just been sitting there, quietly mopping up stock without drawing attention to himself."

Pearson, the industrial conglomerate whose interests range from publishing to fine china, merchant banking and leisure, was another firm feature but also closed below its best levels of the day, finishing 11p better at 668p, after 672p. This led to immediate speculation that Mr Rupert Murdoch's The News Corporation, the international media group which is the parent company of News International, the owner of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, may have been adding to its near 20 per cent

holding. But traders claim that this is wide of the mark with a turnover of only 705,000 shares registered.

Pearson is a thin market these days and it took only one institutional buyer of 200,000 shares to mop up all the loose shares in the market and force market-makers to mark the price higher.

John Crowther Group, the fast-growing textile group headed by Mr Trevor Barker, jumped by another 10p to 185p, still awaiting news of the bid approach from an unnamed suitor. Dealers think that it could be a rival, Entrad Investments, the Australian group, which made an abortive bid for Tootal in 1985.

Crowther boasts an impressive growth record which has seen pretax profits surge from £14.9 million to £30.2 million in the past five years. Its share price has risen by 57p in the past week and, at these levels, it carries a price-tag of £180.4 million.

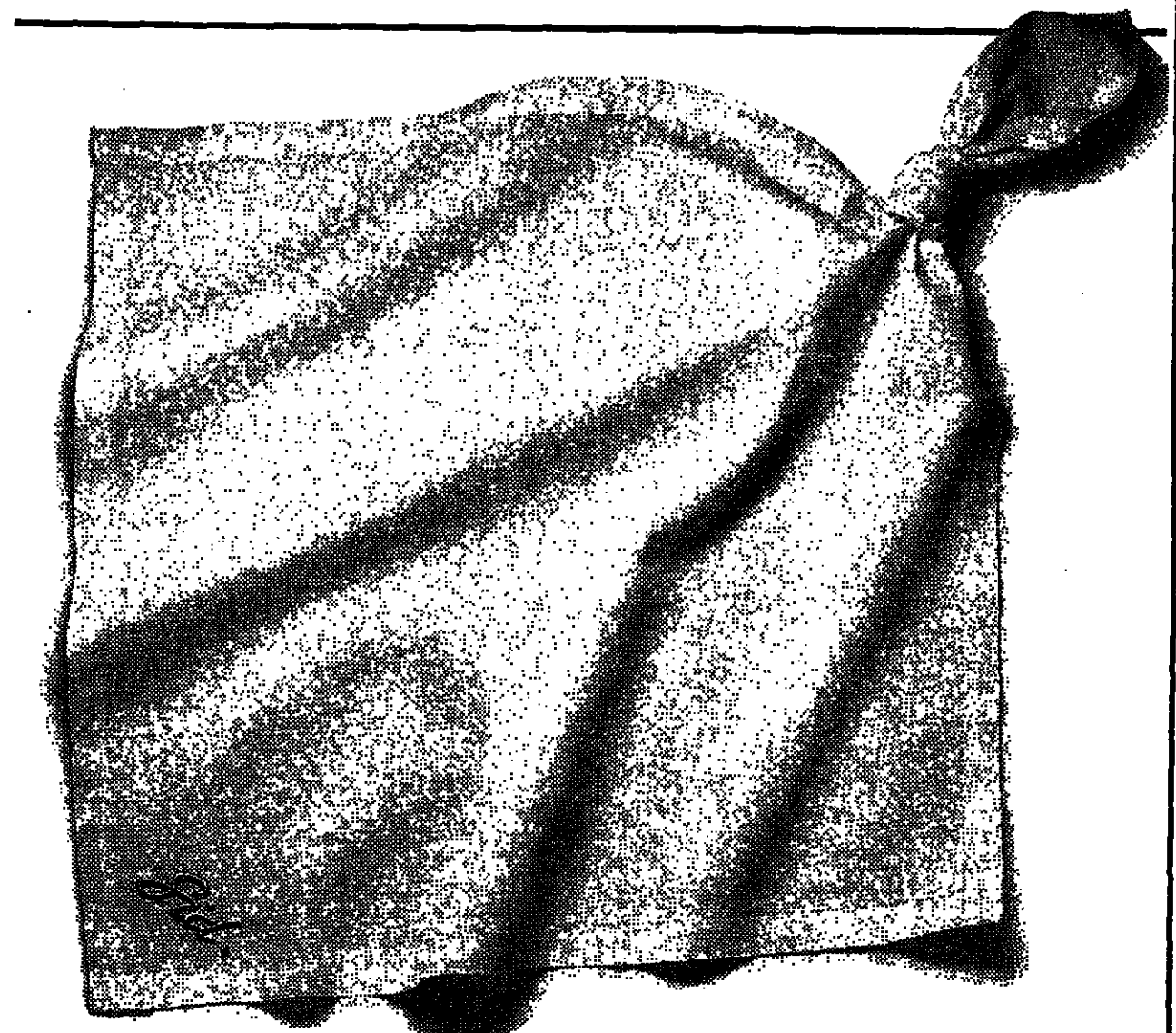
Royal Bank of Scotland was a dull market, falling by 9p to 363p, on the news that it is hoping to make a friendly bid for Citizens Financial Group, a small, New England bank. The deal is expected to cost Royal Bank about £200 mil-

Keep an eye on USM - quoted Kinicki Panmure Gordon - recently appointed joint broker - has published a "buy" recommendation which will lead on fund managers desks today. It says pretax profits will jump from £3.4 million to £4.8 million. The price rose 1p to 38p.

Trusthouse, the subject of an important review, published by Kleinwort Grieson, the broker, which recommended the shares as a buy earlier this month, launched an agreed bid for Kennedy Brookes, the Wheelers to Mario & Franco restaurant chain. THF finished unchanged at 249p.

Michael Clark

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Hickson rises to record £20.1m

By Colin Campbell

Hickson International, the expanding chemicals, timber protection and merchant distributor group, achieved fresh records in the year ended December and is confident of further growth this year.

Sales rose 39 per cent to £224.2 million and pretax profits from £15.1 million to £20.1 million, said Mr Melvyn Hopley, the chairman, adding that acquisitions made during the year had all contributed to the group's progress.

The final dividend is raised from 3.05p to 4p a share, making 5.625p (4.375p) for the year, covered 2.8 times.

Operating profits from the chemicals division, which accounted for 39 per cent of total sales, rose from £10.2 million to £12.2 million, and Hickson's merchant distributor division was now the largest nationwide distributor of contract floor-covering materials in Britain, Mr Hopley said.

The mark remained the most important currency as far as chemical interests were concerned, and Hickson would therefore continue to maintain careful hedging arrangements to minimize currency risks.

The shares eased 1p to 179p.

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THE RUGBY GROUP PLC 1987 Results

	1987	1986	UP
• TURNOVER	£401.9m	£313.3m	28%
• PROFIT BEFORE TAX*	£51.4m	£35.5m	45%
• EARNINGS PER SHARE*	22.3p	16.1p	39%
• DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	8.5p	7.0p	21%

*Before exceptional gains of £4,605,000 (after tax of £2,845,000) and extraordinary profits of £12,740,000 (after tax of £4,000,000).

Profits before and after taxation and earnings per share were records by significant margins.

CROWN HOUSE, RUGBY CV21 2DT. TELEPHONE: 0788 542111

Spring Ram up to £10m

By Alison Flett

Spring Ram, the world's largest ram, is set to be sold for up to £10 million, according to a source close to the sale.

The ram, which is the largest of its kind, is being sold by a private collector to a foreign buyer. The sale is expected to take place in the next few weeks.

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Holmes à Court calls off Bell restructuring plan

From A Correspondent
Sydney

Mr Robert Holmes à Court yesterday threw down the gauntlet to Sir Ron Brierley and Mr Kerry Packer by withdrawing his Aus\$700 million (£283 million) restructuring plan. This permits the duo's Aus\$825 million bid for Bell Resources to proceed.

Sir Ron, the chairman of Industrial Equity Limited, said last week that the offer was conditional on the merger of Bell Resources and its parent, Bell Group, being abandoned.

Yesterday Turnbridge, the Brierley-Packer bid vehicle, sought an injunction from the Western Australian Supreme Court to stop an extraordinary

meeting of Bell Resources tomorrow. The meeting had been called to consider the Bell chief's reverse takeover. However, the hearing was adjourned after Bell's counsel said his instructions had been changed.

Bell Resources said later the Aus\$1.50-per-share Brierley-Packer offer required "full consideration by the company and its shareholders". It added, however, that that price was "clearly inadequate" but that it was willing to negotiate.

The market echoed this sentiment, with the shares closing 7 cents higher at Aus\$1.57, down from the day's high of Aus\$1.65.

Analysis interpreted the

Bell statement as suggesting it was prepared to accept a higher offer from Turnbridge. The consensus figure proffered was Aus\$2.00-40 cents below the break-up price per share computed by Potts West Trumbull, the broker.

The proposed restructure had been "in the best interests of all shareholders," the Bell statement said, "though not essential to preserve the value of the investment in each company".

Bell Resources still holds 10 per cent of BHP after accepting Aus\$2.1 billion for two thirds of its holding in Australia's biggest company. It also has cash or near-liquid assets.

The analysts said a full-price bid for Bell Resources

would inject cash into Bell Group. Mr Holmes à Court would then consider using his family interest to privatize Bell Group.

Meanwhile, Sir Ron and Mr Packer, the head of Consolidated Press Holdings, have a small stake - estimated between 7 and 10 per cent - of Bell Resources. Their purchase was predicated on the assumption that Mr Holmes à Court needed to merge the companies to inject cash into Bell Group.

The two investors believe he must make a deal. The "Black Knight", as Mr Holmes à Court has been portrayed, was *en prise*. Corporate chess players, however, point out that this is not checkmate.

First-half advance for Alba

By Colin Campbell

Alba, the consumer electronics company that came to the stock market last October after a placing at 130p a share, reports a pretax profit of £2.98 million in its first interim report to end December. This compares with £2.28 million in the previous first half. Turnover rose from £20.5 million to £27.7 million.

New products launched since flotation were selling well, and others will be added to the range in spring, the board said.

A maiden interim dividend of 1.5p is declared, and Alba expects to pay a final dividend of not less than 2.85p.

Group exports sales rose 31 per cent to £4 million.

Pressac up to £1.5m at half time

By Alison Eadie

Pressac Holdings, the electro-mechanical component manufacturer and precision engineer, made pretax profits of £1.5 million in the half year to the end of January, a rise of 44 per cent, on turnover 17 per cent higher at £15.3 million.

Earnings per share gained 54 per cent, to 5.47p, and the dividend was increased by 18 per cent to 0.5p.

All areas of the group's activities performed well, and significant new customers, including Japanese companies, were gained in the domestic electronics and television division.

£700,000 purchase for Prism

Prism Leisure Corporation has provisionally agreed to acquire for £700,000 Burns & Porter Associates, which organizes quiz games on behalf of brewery companies in public houses.

Mr Geoffrey Young, the Prism chairman, says the acquisition fits in well with the group's interests.

The initial £700,000 consideration will be satisfied by the payment of £500,000 in cash and the issue of 204,081 shares.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Epic battle foreshadows property wars to come

The Budget has left the domain of the pundits and moved into the real world. The changes in the capital gains tax rules have enabled Peachey Property Corporation to lift its bid for Estates Property Investment Company (Epic) to a level which, prior to the Budget, would have been irresistible. Peachey is offering 260p in its final attempt to win over Epic shareholders, which is attractive enough set against the fully diluted net asset value of 258p announced by Epic last month.

The problem is, however, that Epic's worth has also moved, and by a greater amount than Peachey is lifting its bid. Epic says that after the Budget changes, under which pre-1982 gains are effectively written out of the script for tax purposes, the contingent tax liability arising on a total disposal of the entire portfolio has been reduced from 31p to 9p a share. It does not change the asset value, which is stated gross before tax, but it does add to Epic's attractions.

The market was quick to spot the change in the worth of property companies after the Budget, and there will be further bids within the sector. Meanwhile, the bidders seem to be lining up to top the Peachey offer. The Peachey team has not left itself the option of increasing the offer even if it is topped. John Brown,

Peachey's managing director, looks upon Epic, which is 75 per cent by value in industrial property, as a property deal rather than a corporate takeover. That is why he has offered cash, and why he has set the lid on the price.

But it is also why he might not be able to bag Epic. Other bidders now know the highest price Peachey will offer, and are able to offer not only a marginally higher price but also a choice to Epic shareholders. They can put in cash, but they can also put in shares, a valuable option given the rising property market.

Epic shareholders have no need to hurry to make up their minds, because the bid will be kept open until April 12. The market has its own ideas on the likely course of events, and the Epic price has moved out of reach of an acquisitive Peachey at 262p last night. No bidder need go far beyond Peachey's current offer, and a sale in the market has its attractions. But the great advantage of this bid is that the open period straddles the end of one tax year and the start of the next. Investors are likely to have their course of action heavily influenced by tax considerations.

But even Epic, although it would deny it, must be feeling its days of independence are numbered. And it will be just one of many.

Resolving a failed merger

The future of Bill Stuttford's highly successful Framlington investment management group has inevitably been up in the air since OCF, the privatized French bank, began to think it did not want its 28 per cent stake as a long-term holding. There would have probably been no trouble placing these shares and they presented no direct threat since Framlington has the right to seek approved buyers at the market price and plenty of other institutions have shown interest.

Philip Gibbs of CL-Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank, who knows Framlington well, thinks profits will fall back from last year's remarkable £6.5 million to about £4.9 million in 1988 because of the impact of the crash, which would leave the rumour-inflated shares at 170p, selling at 19 times fully diluted earnings. But Framlington is well-liked and is now a power in the investment business with £1.5 billion under management. That was partly a result of the fateful deal in 1986 to buy Throgmorton Investment Management Services, which manages Throgmorton

Trust, which in turn gained a 15 per cent holding in Framlington.

Throgmorton's bid late yesterday should not, therefore, be seen as the entry of a White Knight. Far from it. Framlington was not in the unenviable position of M&G, whose funds are being stalked by people it does not like.

Ever since the merger with Throgmorton Management, however, it has become clear that the two cultures do not mix. Throgmorton's Bob Seabrook and Paul Loach (who are on both boards) run Throgmorton Trust as a corporate entity rather than just a fund of money, and they have made no secret of wanting to raise their stake.

The bidders hope for Framlington approval but Mr Stuttford and Tim Miller, the managing director, will be hard to convince. Yet it is hard to think of Framlington without them. A row between the two sides would put the Throgmorton contract at risk, and could cause ructions over Framlington's special management preference as well as leaving the French in confusion. A parting of the ways looks likely.

Spring Ram up to £10m

By Alison Eadie

Spring Ram, the manufacturer of kitchens, bathrooms and other home improvement products, achieved a 52 per cent rise in pretax profits to £10.7 million in the year to January 2.

Turnover rose to £60.8 million from £40.8 million. Earnings per share soared 125 per cent to 11.7p, after tax paid dropped to £128,000 from £2.4 million in the previous year.

Spring Ram has invested £23 million on greenfield sites in development areas such as Kirkcaldy, West Yorkshire, and Southorpe, Humberside, so earning sizeable tax breaks.

The new Astracast factory at Kirkcaldy, making kitchen sinks, will open this Easter. The balance sheet and cashflow have never been stronger, the company said.

Mr Bill Rooney, the chairman, said growth prospects were excellent despite the Budget cuts on loans for home improvement. Analysts expect pretax profits this year to surge to at least £16 million.

The total dividend was raised to 0.55p, after a 10 per cent increase in the final dividend to 0.37p.

Halstead at £2.9m

James Halstead, manufacturer of carpet and vinyl floor tiles and distributor of leisure wear, made pretax profits in the six months to the end of December of £2.9 million compared with £2.3 million. Turnover rose to £22.9 million from £20.2 million.

Earnings per share rose 24 per cent to 13p and the interim dividend was up 30 per cent to 3.25p.



Cultivating healthy returns: Jonathan Taylor yesterday (Photograph by John Rogers)

Booker beats forecasters with 18% profits growth

By Carol Ferguson

Booker, the agriculture and healthcare group, revealed an 18 per cent profits jump last year to £64.3 million. This was slightly ahead of analysts' expectations, but the market failed to respond and the shares slipped 6p to 403p.

Earnings per share also rose 18 per cent to 32.8p, while the dividend was increased 16 per cent to 16p net.

These results were achieved despite the fall in the dollar. Booker earned £20.6 million in the US last year, just less than one third of the total, but the adverse currency impact

was restricted to £1 million because of currency swap arrangements.

Just more than half the group's profits was earned from its agribusiness which covers poultry breeding in the US, where it is the leading

operator, seed breeding, salmon farming, mushroom growing and forestry.

Mr Jonathan Taylor, chief executive, said that results in the health products area, where profits rose 25 per cent

to £8.1 million, were mixed. While the Holland & Barrett health food subsidiary still enjoyed good volumes, wholemeal cereal grains and breads were now available in supermarkets and profitability was being hit. A strategy to combat these problems has been implemented.

In the United Kingdom, where Booker is the second biggest salmon farmer after Unilever, big volume growth was coming through in salmon supplies, but demand was growing at 20 per cent a year.

The group continues to look for acquisition opportunities.

Evans Halshaw drives off with £6.4m

By Colin Campbell

Evans Halshaw Holdings, the motor dealer and car parts distributor, saw profits jump by 80 per cent in the year ended December, and said it saw no reason why the progressive growth route should not continue.

In response to results and the forecast, the shares rose by 15p to 283p.

Turnover in the 12 months to end-December rose from

£172.9 million to £213.2 million and pretax profits from £3.56 million to £6.41 million.

Mr Geoff Dale, the chairman, said trading in the first quarter of 1988 had been buoyant and he was encouraged by the prospects for the year.

A final dividend of 5p makes 7p (4.19p) for the year.

Profits of the motor group rose by 63 per cent to £5.86 million, helped in particular

by the strength of the Jaguar and Ford dealerships, and for the fourth consecutive year there was an increase in the contract hire vehicle fleet, which stood at more than 7,000 at year-end.

The year's profit outcome at £6.4 million is almost treble 1985 profits which formed the basis of the group's stock market flotation.

Evans Halshaw operates through 27 franchised dealer-

ships, and says its 1987 acquisitions were all beneficial in terms of overall strategy and profitability.

Since year-end, the group has bought Colver & Hatcher (Chester), a BMW dealership in Buckinghamshire, and has been granted the franchised distribution for Ferrari in the West Midlands.

The group continues to look for acquisition opportunities.

Leasing industry increases by 16%

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Expectations that the equipment leasing industry would be hit by recent changes in capital allowances have been overturned, with the Equipment Leasing Association reporting a jump of more than 16 per cent in 1987 business.

Leasing had fallen in 1986 but last year's total was still nearly 5 per cent up on 1985.

1987 was the first year the full impact of 1984 Budget cuts in capital allowances was felt, bringing them down from 100 per cent to 25 per cent. Mr Alan Outten, the association chairman, said: "Predictions that these changes would have a disastrous effect on leasing in the United Kingdom have been confounded in a quite spectacular fashion."

The 73 members of the association, typically subsidiaries of finance houses including merchant banks, leased a record £6 billion worth of equipment to industry and commerce in 1987. This accounted for 17 per cent of all fixed investment in plant and machinery in Britain.

In the service industries it was up 32 per cent while car fleet business jumped 53 per cent with commercial vehicle leasing up 37 per cent. The rise in finance leasing of vehicles is notable because trade reports have indicated a growth in the alternative of contract hire.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Marvellous Marvin

John Marvin, the managing director of Hickson International, the chemicals and timber protection group, was in good voice when announcing record 1987 figures yesterday. And so he should have been. This talented MD was once a choral scholar at Cambridge University, where he regularly sang evensong at the famous King's College chapel (he has an MA degree in music and law), and he told me yesterday that if you are clever enough to construct and understand a

symphony, you should be able to run a chemical company. He says his unlikely appointment to IC1, in 1956, came at a time when there was a shortage of science graduates: "With my training I could at least understand the technical jargon". He joined Hickson in 1983 as group commercial director, being appointed managing director in 1985. He still sings in a choir in Yorkshire. Now there is a thought for this year's annual meeting, if the caharet does not show up.

Trade and Industry's long-standing competition specialist, and the man who was wheeled out once again in 1986 to give this much-criticized area of policy a brushing-up. Speaking in a debate he had initiated, Fallon, no mean thinker himself, welcomed the DIT's re-

cent green paper on restrictive trade practice as the result of yet another review by Liesner, "who seems to have been responsible for more reviews than Tom Lehrer". Lehrer, for the uninitiated, is an American satirist whose blackly humorous songs inspired a hit stage revue, *Tomfoolery*, some years ago. Could this be backbench pressure building up for the introduction of some fresh faces among Lord Young's competition reviewers?

Two pats on the back, at least, for Kwik-Fit. Its year ended February 29 and yesterday - just 21 days after the year-end - it produced preliminary results. Such a contrast to Paterson, Zuckonis, the toiletries manufacturer, which announced its results on Budget day despite its interim period ending last November.



"Koppers? I thought you said 'kippers'"

Carol Leonard

Orion's royal wrangle

The pomp and ceremony surrounding tomorrow's opening, by the Queen Mother, of Orion Royal Bank's glitzy new office block in London's Queen Victoria Street will, I hear, belie the mausoleum-like atmosphere that dwells within. The building already houses all the London staff of Orion's parent company, the Royal Bank of Canada, as well as Orion staff, and those employed by Kiteat & Aitken, its subsidiary stockbroking firm. The rot set in, I am told, when Orion announced last November that it was pulling out of gifts, as well as Canadian and Australian Eurobonds. The subsequent purchase by RBC of the Canadian bond firm Dominion Securities - after it had failed to buy Wood Gundy - has left Kiteat & Aitken out on even more of a limb, despite assurances from Orion that it now wants to concentrate on equities, instead of gifts. The result has been a steady brain drain away from Orion and its broking subsidiary, culminating in the resignation, during the past couple of weeks, of compliance officer Michael Perry, who is going to Swiss Banking Corporation, chief economist Chris Dunn, and Jonathan Luban, who had helped run the investment management side and is now off to Bankers Trust.

Play it again

Michael Fallon, the Tory MP for Darlington, took a friendly little swipe on Friday at Hans Liesner, the Department of

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07.00	09.00	07.25	07.25
08.15	10.15	08.30	09.30
11.00	13.00	11.30	11.30
12.15	14.15	13.30	13.30
14.15	16.15	15.30	15.30
16.15	18.15	17.30	17.30
18.15	20.15	19.30	19.30
20.15	22.15	21.00	21.00



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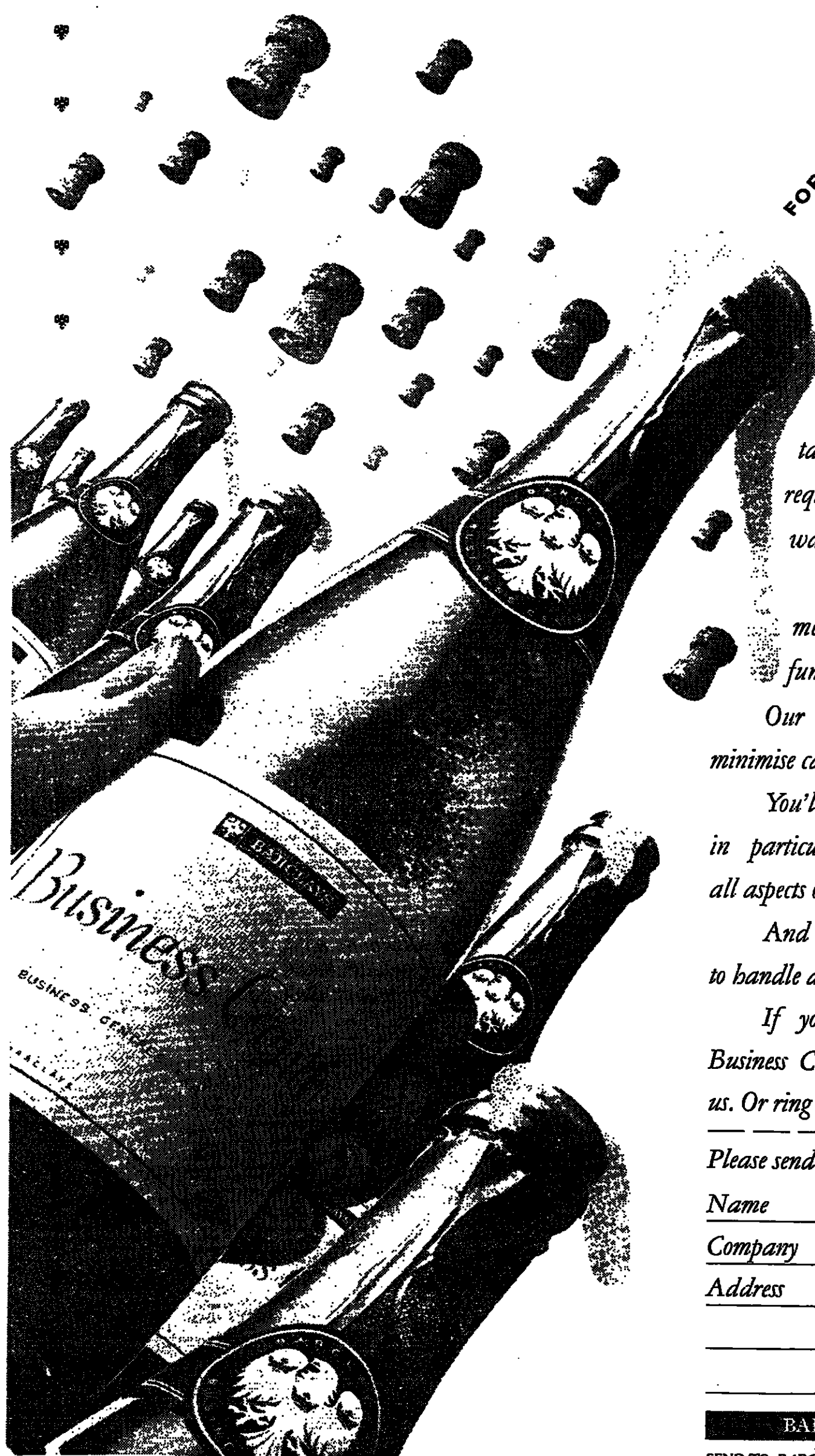
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From Stephen Leather
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Cathay Pacific
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created that
of 150 million
above market
According to Mr. Michael
Miles, the chairman
long went in the airline's
lower cost base, including fuel
prices, exchange rates and
good growth in passenger and
cargo volumes.

"A unique blend of
factor working in the airline's
favour all came together to
produce another record
year," he said.

"We can't remember a time
when several of the key
factors have come together
to the benefit of the
airline. And that's
bottom line. And that's
can't go on forever," said
Miles, who is also the
chairman in the airline's
Shareholders' meeting
final dividend of 10 pence
per share, making a total
year ending December
1987 of 45 pence.

Earnings per share
rose from 34 pence in
1986 to 45 pence in 1987
while turnover rose from
HK\$11.7 billion to HK\$13.5 billion.

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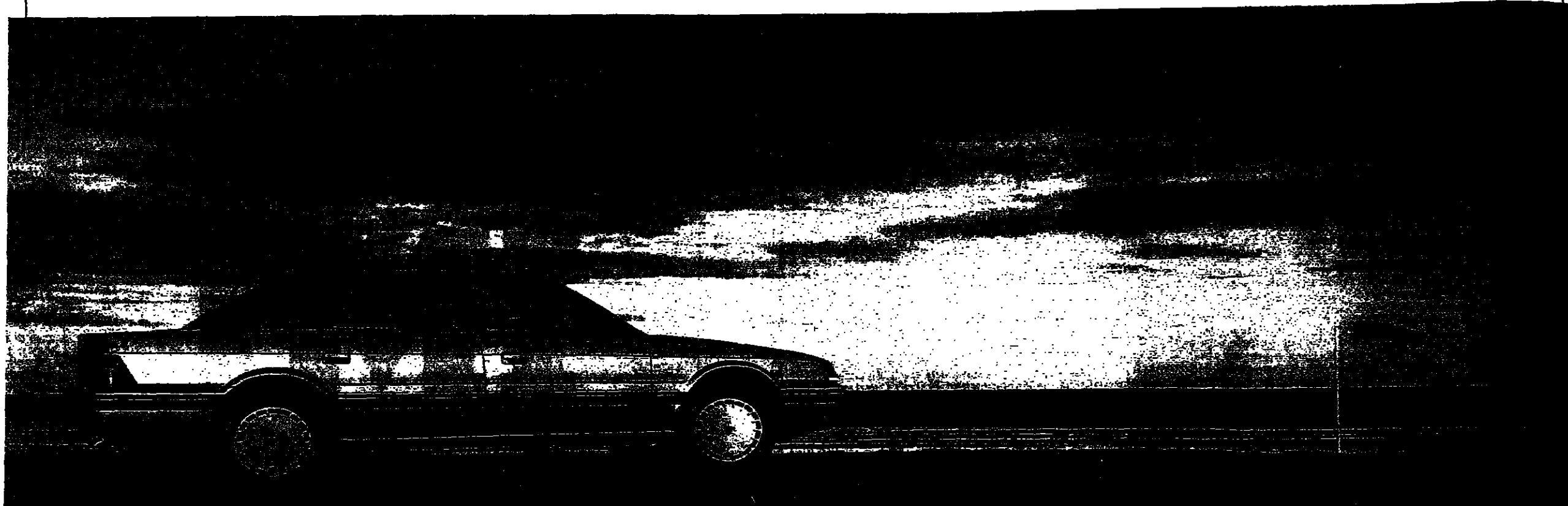
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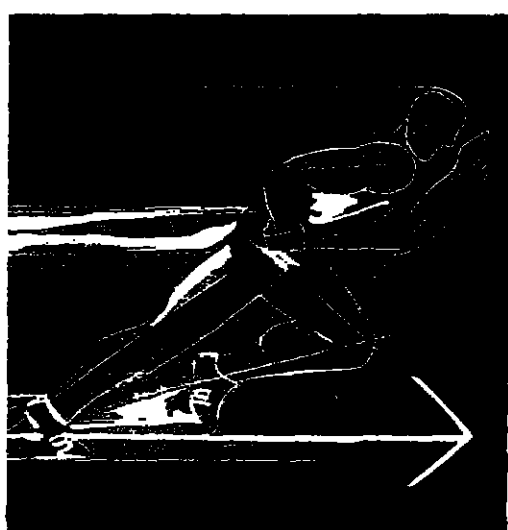


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TECHNOLOGY

HANOVER FAIR

Atari leads on the display shelf

From Geoff Wheelwright in Hanover, West Germany

The world's latest computing technology came out of the development labs and on to display shelves last week at Hannover's annual CeBIT fair — with major advances claimed from the personal computer to the mainframe arena.

In the PC arena it was Atari, the star of the PC end of the show for the past two years, which once again offered the most active range of new technologies.

Atari is investing a fair chunk of its future in the serious end of the business computer market with this product and hence it is not surprising that Atari either wants to get a second source for the Transputer — or buy the company that produces it. "We put in an offer to buy Immos about four months ago", said Atari's chairman, Jack Tramiel. "And I don't blame them (for turning the offer down) — there's no question that they would like to keep the factory in British hands. I have been trying to convince them that we are British, but they don't believe me."

Atari also announced that it was to offer a machine that will run the Unix computer operating system and use Motorola's advanced 68030 computer processor by the end of the year.

Perhaps, more importantly, Atari claimed that it will be able to offer this machine for less than \$US5,000 — considerably cheaper than anything comparable at the moment.

And just to show that it has all bases covered, Atari has announced plans to offer an IBM PC-compatible computer, using the Intel 386 processor that will offer the same 20 Mhz computer processing power as 386 industry leader Compaq.

It will also provide graphics that are compatible with IBM's VGA graphics standard and also, faster computer memory. The company is also bringing the world of digital sound technology and computers together with its work on Compact Disc systems for computers.

Atari said it will shortly start delivering a CD-ROM player for its ST computer,

that will allow users to play back standard recorded CD audio discs, while also being able to retrieve stored computer information from suppliers of CD-ROM databases.

At the more conservative end of the market Compaq was also dipping its toe into the waters of new storage technology — and it, too, had decided that it was time to pioneer the optical storage technology made popular by the CD player.

The new Compaq optical storage system should give the German company an edge over other plug-compatible mainframe manufacturers that have not been so bold.

It will provide users of IBM 370-style mainframes with up to 712 Gigabytes of storage on a system that writes its data to the disk via laser beam — and claims reliable storage of data for up to 30 years.

PROFILE

How to make paper redundant

By Caroline Berman

Bela Hatvany lost everything, not once but twice, in an exotic career spanning Mexico, America and Europe. Now he is running a company in west London called Silver Platter, publishing information on optical discs.

He also juggles with a graphics terminal company, Imulac, in Massachusetts which he regards as a "cash cow" and an ailing touch screen computer company, Interactive Systems, in New York. No wonder he has to rely on Buddhist meditation to help keep him sane.

Mr Hatvany sees his current project of optical discs as an area of enormous growth and confidently predicts the time when paper — woodpulp stained with ink as he refers to it — will be seen as an enormous anachronism.

Having worked for BP, Bull and Burroughs as computer service engineer, salesman and programmer, he then went to Harvard Business School, while also working for Arthur D Little as a consultant programmer.

"While I was there, one cold February morning I got a letter from a friend in Mexico, asking my advice on computers. I was later invited to do a consultancy study for a Mexican company, run by Belaustegui Igoitia, which ran sugar mills and other businesses," he explained.

While there he proposed starting up a computer services operation and two months later was asked to do so. Mr Igoitia put up the money and Mr Hatvany got 49 per cent of the equity of the new company, ComSisa.



The right team and human interaction

Although a colourful job, it was never a money maker.

"I ended up in the US in February 1971 with four babies, three computers, a wife, no job and no money," he said. From this experience, he said he learnt never to settle for a minority share in a company.

After this he and Walter Wischall, a friend who now runs the venture capital company, Kendall Squire Associates, used the computers to develop and then sell computer systems to libraries.

Over the next few years three different groups put money into the company and gained seats on the board but they all

started squabbling. Mr Hatvany couldn't control them and in 1975 he resigned from the board. This was the low point at which he took up Buddhist meditation.

Nevertheless, Mr Wischall asked him back to help run the campaign but one of the investors in the company didn't honour a promise to invest and the bank foreclosed on them. Once again, Mr Hatvany had lost everything.

Eventually the bank sold CLSI back to Mr Hatvany and Mr Wischall, and they built it up to an \$11 million company. In 1981 Mr Hatvany returned to the UK. CLSI was eventually sold in 1985 and he said he realized a return of 1000:1.

In 1983 Mr Hatvany became interested in optical discs and, once again with Wischall, set up Silver Platter. Hatvany said he had learnt, from his previous experience with CLSI, not to run companies using money he didn't have, in the expectation of money, and this time the company was self-financed.

After three years the earliest prototype disc drives were delivered, using Sony and Phillips hardware standard and at the end of 1986 he opened a US office. The Post Office Address File, containing 23 1/2 million addresses, was published on optical disc and the same has now been done for Canada and another European country.

He publishes on optical disc reference material on subjects including medical, educational and occupational health. So far Silver Platter has produced 15 of the 200 different optical discs currently containing information, providing turnover of \$3.5 million per year.

JOBSCENE

A creative way to steal a march

By Peter Bartram

Managers can give themselves a considerable leg up in their careers by harnessing computer technology to their jobs.

While the business schools and management consultants are devising ways for companies to gain an extra competitive edge by using information technology, some young managers have discovered that they can steal a march on their rivals by using computing creatively.

The message is apparently increasingly clear. An enthusiasm for technology accelerates promotion. In fact, managers who now fail to

Two factors have stimulated the technology drive — the tumbling cost of personal computers and the explosion in cheap packaged software.

It means that managers have easy access to a range of computing tools at prices they can authorize out of their own departmental budgets.

The innovators then accelerate their careers by showing their bosses how using computing can deliver real benefits to the business.

A typical case is Marcus Dixon, who won a main board appointment at recruitment consultants Gordon Yates Ltd at the age of 30.

He spearheaded the introduction of computing into his company's marketing department. Although not a technical manager, he guided the computer experts to produce the kind of system that would deliver real business benefits to his company.

Peter Burton, a young manager with P&O Containers, admits that mastering technology helped get him out of a dead-end job.

He had advanced about as far as possible as a commercial manager in the company's Birmingham branch.

Then using some experience on local computing work, he got transferred to a London-based project on electronic data interchange — an advanced means of swapping business information between companies worldwide.

The common theme that runs through the success stories is that managers need to be more than just computer literate. Indeed, most big companies already have quite enough computer literate staff in their data processing departments.

Yet Mr Mark Birchough, a human resources consultant at Deloitte Haskins and Sells management consultants, says that it is not quite as cut and dried as that.

He sees three levels of computer literacy that managers will need to master as they advance up the corporate tree.

At the lowest level the manager will be using PC-based technologies like word processing, spreadsheets and electronic mail to improve his management productivity.

The next step up involves grasping how technology can be harnessed to deliver new products and services. In other words, to improve the company's competitive edge and business prospects.

At the highest level, the manager needs to understand the strategic significance of technological developments on his business.

But at whatever level, those managers seeking turbo-powered careers now need to embrace information technology with enthusiasm.



Mark Birchough: "Three levels of computer literacy that managers will need to master."

master new technology could find they have a bright career behind them.

They will not only be up against rivals in competing companies, who will be using technology to enhance their performance, but may even be overshadowed by their own colleagues.

Dick White, recruitment manager at the PA group of management consultants, says that understanding the business implications of information technology is now a prerequisite of getting a consultancy job with the company.

What the management consultants are saying is that a grounding in commercial computing should now be an essential element of a well-rounded manager — not a desirable extra.

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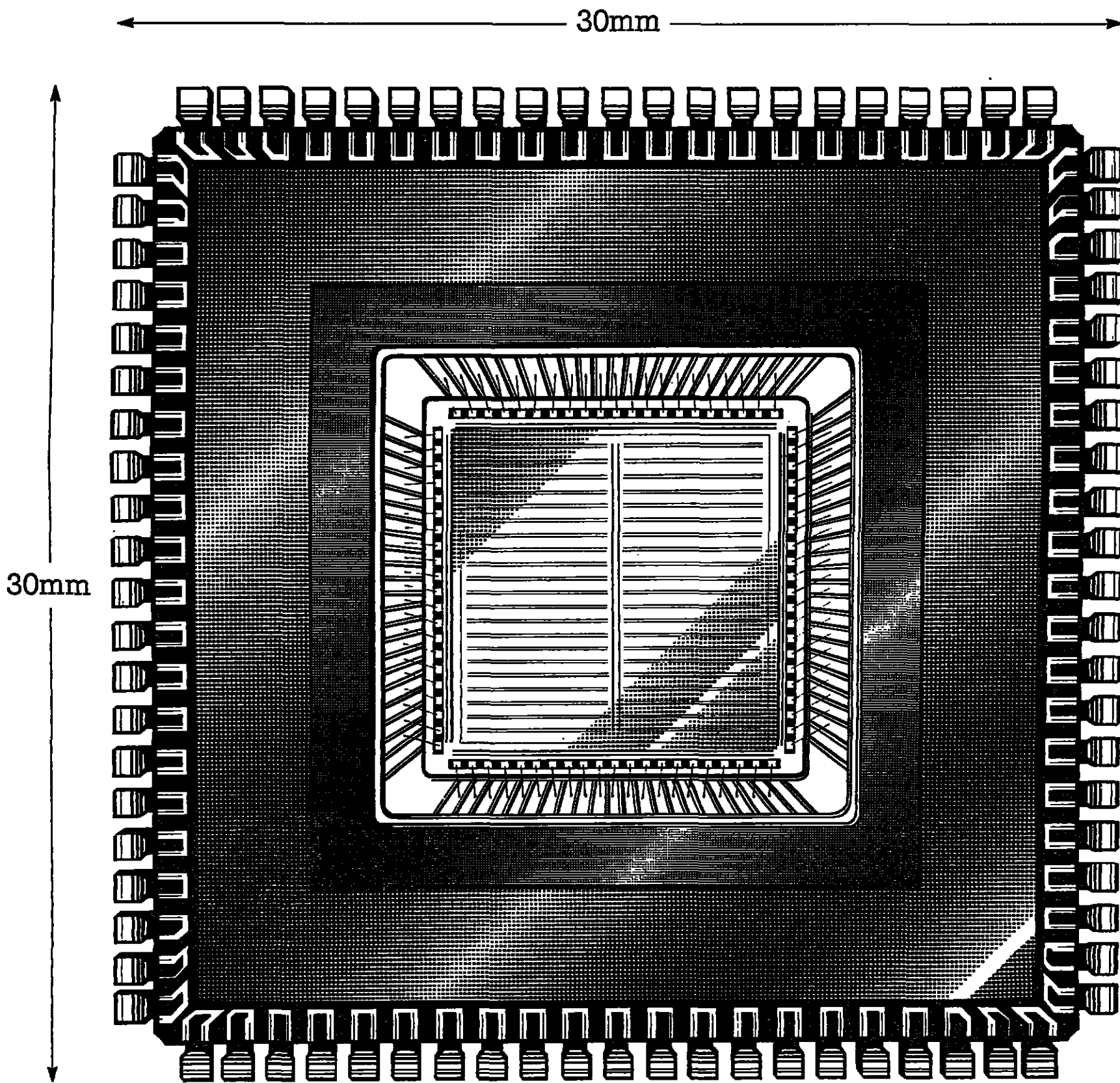
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TECHNOLOGY

French attack the hackers



By Matthew May

While companies in Britain are worried that existing legislation is inadequate to deal with hackers who break into their computer systems, events last week showed that the French police seem to have little fear that their legal system can cope with such hi-tech crimes and mischief making.

Last Monday a West German, Stephen Wernery, arrived at a conference in Paris on computer security to give a speech on how to safeguard data networks. But before he could deliver it, detectives from the Paris fraud squad arrested, jailed and charged him with "theft, destruction and damaging computer goods".

A journalist, Hans Gliss, was also detained although released a few hours later.

Mr Wernery is co-president of a group based in Hamburg called the Chaos Computer Club which last September announced it had broken into a high-security computer network. It links many European and American computers with sensitive information including that of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

French police, working with West German officers, raided the Hamburg offices of Chaos last September but under West German law were unable to take any action.

The police said they had been wanting to interview Mr Wernery, who has admitted breaking into the network, since last year after several French companies started legal proceedings for the theft of computer information. Hence Mr Wernery's appearance in Paris gave the police the opportunity to charge him under French law.

The idea that Mr Wernery should admit to computer hacking at the same time as lecturing on computer security is not that strange. He has argued that what Chaos did was intended merely to reveal weaknesses in computer security.

Several US computer hackers now make a healthy living advising companies on how to protect their computer systems — the assumption being those who have done it are best placed to point out flaws.

Last week's conference was also told that a 19-year-old West German schoolboy has developed a method of breaking into Digital Equipment's VAX computers using information openly available from the computer firm.

The latest concern of computer users — and particularly those with systems connected to public networks — is the spread of cases involving computer viruses.

Modern buildings are getting smart

By Ken Young

Despite the recent lull on the stock market, the world's leading business centres are undergoing a massive growth in high-tech architecture. It is a boom in what is fondly termed "intelligent buildings".

Behind the scenes, architects, developers, space planners and technologists are grappling with an emerging discipline. It is the science of high-rise intelligence and concerns the growing pressure to build-in support facilities, both for building controls and to provide state-of-the-art services to occupants.

Frank Duffy a partner, in DEGW Architects and Space Planners, is one of many speakers at a forthcoming "High Tech Buildings" conference in June. He says there are four main aspects to intelligent building design:

- Office automation supplied by the landlord;
- Enhanced telecommunications;
- Building automation (such as lighting and heating);
- Flexibility to change with new developments.

Mr Duffy believes that the Americans started the ball rolling. He said: "It began three or four years ago with the deregulation of telecommunications, with many different companies offering attractive rates for bulk orders. This led to joint projects between developers and communications suppliers."

"It has now peaked in the US and has been picked up in Japan, and is being backed by advertising showing examples of western style offices."

But in practice the art of IB is imprecise and the ground rules are, only through trial and error, being established. So far two basic strategies have emerged: you can either

build-in intelligence to an existing building (known as retrofitting) or start completely from scratch and integrate plans for intelligence into the design of a new building.

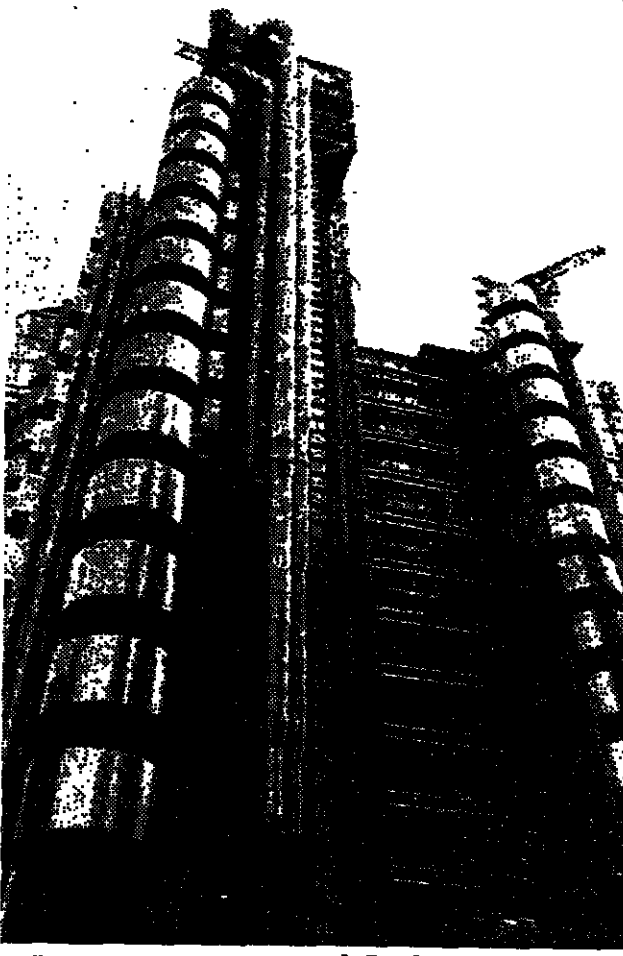
Each strategy is fraught with problems. In the case of a retrofit, architects often find that they are faced with very limited ducting for the new wiring that is needed for computers, dealing desks, phone systems and so on. Or they may find that the building is listed and every structural change must conform to strict regulations.

In the case of a new building the enormous range of possibilities opens up a Pandora's box of complexity. For the developer there is the added problem of making the building suitable for a range of tenants with different needs.

The City dealer is accepted as being one of the most intensive users of new technology in today's office. It is the belief of Robert Fernandez, property director for Manufacturers Hanover that high tech users can be accommodated in low tech buildings.

He said the company overcame the limitations of a 1960s building and installed a 34 desk dealing room by looking at the problem creatively. This involved finding a new route for coolant piping and constructing a new riser in the stairwell. It also involved compromise: reduced headroom due to increasing the ceiling void. Finally, emphasis was put on getting full support and regular communication from all involved.

● High Tech Buildings '88 takes place on 8-10 June at the Town Hall, Kensington, London. Organised by Online International 01-868 4466



Built-in intelligence for Lloyds London headquarters

Apple goes sour over look of rival software...

Apple Computer, Hoping to protect a key selling point of its Macintosh, has filed a copyright infringement suit in California against Microsoft and Hewlett Packard.

Apple said software programs sold by the two companies infringed on copyrights Apple held for the way information is presented and controlled on Macintosh screens.

The programs are New Wave, sold by Hewlett-Packard, and Microsoft's Windows version 2.03.

New Wave cannot run without Windows, but the Microsoft program is also sold separately.

The suit could have broad repercussions in the industry because virtually all personal computer makers are moving towards more of a Macintosh look.

That appearance is based on what the industry calls a graphical user interface, in which information appears in windows and operations are carried out by pointing at objects and menus using a handheld device called a mouse — a major selling point of the Macintosh.

The suit was filed in federal District Court in San Jose, Calif.

Roy Verley, a spokesman for Hewlett-Packard, said: "We don't believe we've violated any copyrights."

The suit does not mention Microsoft's Presentation Manager, expected to be the software that will control screen displays in the new generation of personal computers that will use the OS-2 operating system, developed jointly by Microsoft and IBM.

An Apple spokeswoman, Barbara Krause, would not comment on whether Apple would file a similar suit against Presentation Manager.

She said the filing "shows Apple is serious about protecting its audiovisual display."

Several lawsuits have arisen in the software industry concerning the "look and feel" of programs.

Last year, the Lotus Development sued two small software companies, claiming their programs infringed on copyrights on Lotus' popular spreadsheet program, 1-2-3.

Two court decisions in the last two years had seemed to uphold the principle that the presentation of a computer program could be protected under the copyright laws.

BRIEFING

Superstores are switching to colour mode

It is no secret in the supermarket business that how items are placed on shelves and how often the inventory turns over can be crucial factors. As supermarkets have gathered more and more data about which items sell best and which make the most money, the computer has moved centre-stage, dictating not only what appears on the shelves, but also how merchandise is positioned.

Now the growing sophistication with which small computers can generate high-resolution graphic and video images as well as manipulate data is being used. Several companies, including US-based Logistics Data Systems and Information Resources are marketing computer systems that generate realistic on-screen images of store shelves. Merchandising managers can design shelf lay-outs using colour-video images of actual products. When satisfied with the lay-out, the manager can order a colour print-out of the design.

Hoskyns has won the largest ever European contract for facilities management. FM, as it is called, is a fast growing field which involves organisations sub contracting the running of their computer departments to outside firms. The agreement made by the London Residuary Body is for Hoskyns to take over the running of its central computer service — one of the biggest local government computing units in the country.

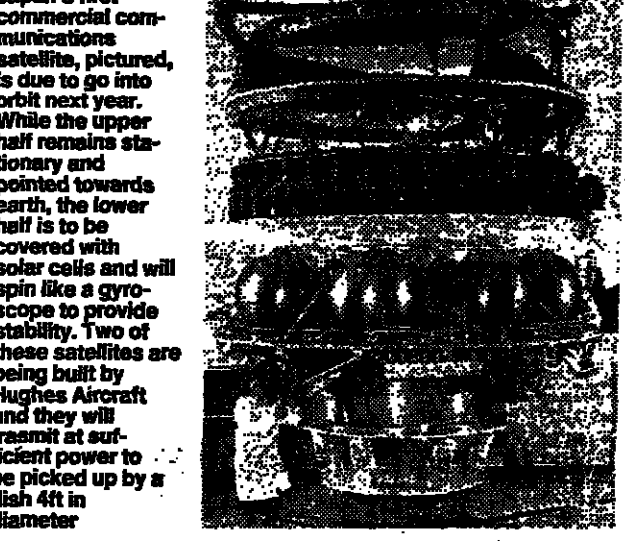
Worth a total of £42 million over the next three years the deal involves the computer services company in taking over the management of the group and employing its 300 staff.

Technology exports banned by the West are reaching Poland from the Far East and Poland can buy sophisticated computers easily, at a price, even with local currency. Western diplomats say, Polish private and state firms exhibiting at a computer trade fair last month in Warsaw displayed items subject to export restrictions by CoCom, the Paris-based group comprising several Western nations and Japan.

Though western companies at the Warsaw fair displayed computers considered basic by western standards, several Polish firms demonstrated more sophisticated hardware assembled in Taiwan or featuring components made there. Diplomats said it was difficult to specify which items fell under the complex CoCom regulations, but it was clear that much was equipment to which Poland would not have had access under CoCom's rigid export-control system.

The EEC has approved a £7 million package to the Dutch electronics company Philips. The European Commission said the non-repayable funds were granted for a high-definition television project under the Eureka European research programme. The package will cover 40 per cent of Philips' share in the project, which involves 11 other European countries and is aimed at developing European high-definition television standards as an alternative to Japanese or US standards.

Japan's first commercial communications satellite, pictured, is due to go into orbit next year. While the upper half remains stationary and pointed towards earth, the lower half is to be covered with solar cells and will spin like a gyroscope to provide stability. Two of these satellites are being built by Hughes Aircraft and they will transmit at sufficient power to be picked up by a dish 4ft in diameter.



Tandy is to acquire the closely held Grid Systems Corporation, a manufacturer of laptop personal computers based in California. Payment for the purchase will be made in Tandy common stock, with an initial payment worth about \$65 million and a subsequent payment of about \$32.5 million in Tandy shares to be paid in 1990 if certain earnings goals are met. Grid will become a wholly owned subsidiary and will operate under its own name. Grid has grown by focusing on the high end of the laptop market with machines that are popular with federal agencies. Tandy, a manufacturer of computers compatible with IBM PC's produces and markets low-end laptop computers.

Cray Research has sold a Cray X-MP-18 supercomputer system to the Japanese firm Toyota. Supercomputer sales between Japan and the United States have been closely watched since US officials claimed early last year that the Japanese government had systematically barred American supercomputer makers.

The system is valued at over £4 million and is scheduled for installation in the second half of 1988, subject to negotiation of a final contract and obtaining an export license. Jeffrey Carlin, an analyst with Hambrecht & Quist in San Francisco, said the sale was "a very significant contract because Toyota was already a Fujitsu customer," referring to one of Cray's Japanese rivals in supercomputers.

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... as Micron faces pricing clash on memory chips

In an action that underscores the tensions caused by the shortage of computer memory chips, Atari has charged Micron Technology, a small memory chip manufacturer, with breaching an agreement in an effort to obtain higher prices for its products.

In a lawsuit filed in California last week Atari said it had reached an agreement on the telephone to buy 3 million memory chips from Micron for \$3.75 apiece.

Atari said, however, that Micron later broke the agreement and asked for a new, substantially higher price. The suit seeks unspecified damages for breach of contract, bad faith and violation of antitrust laws.

Larry Grant, chief financial officer of Micron said the company could not comment because it had not seen the suit.

Computer makers in recent weeks have been beset by a severe shortage of dynamic random access memories, or DRAMs, the main type of silicon microcircuit used to store information in computers.

The shortage has been caused by rising demand and technical snags in producing a new generation of chips.

Also a factor is the restriction on production imposed by the Japanese government to help bring that nation into

compliance with the 1986 semiconductor trade agreement between the United States and Japan.

On the spot market, prices for 256K dynamic RAMs, the chips Atari was trying to buy, have doubled in the last few months, to between \$4 and \$7. Some computer makers are passing on the cost increases to customers.

Others, unable to obtain chips, are slowing their production and delaying introduction of new products.

Atari said that Micron had urged the United States government to impose sanctions on Japan to get Japanese chip manufacturers to raise prices and cut production, then "exploited" the resulting shortage and price increases.

Micron is one of only two United States companies — Texas Instruments is the other — that continue to produce DRAMs for sale to other countries.

Richard Bernhardt, an Atari spokesman, said the extent of the damage would depend on how quickly the company could obtain the chips it thought it would buy from Micron — and on the cost of the chips.

Three million chips is a significant order, enough for more than 180,000 computers each having 512 thousand characters of internal memory.

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TECHNOLOGY

Microchip advance in Scotland

By Robert Matthews

A microchip that can process visual images to a quality thought possible only with devices costing 10 times as much has been built by scientists at Edinburgh University.

Professor Peter Denyer of the department of electrical engineering and his team believe the low-cost vision chip will have a direct impact on a wide range of technologies, such as giving industrial robots the ability to see.

Until now, the choice of vision chip was restricted to either expensive, and very high quality, charge coupled devices (CCDs) or cheaper and relatively inferior CMOS photodiode technology.

The quality of CCD is far above that needed for many purposes, so the Edinburgh team decided to find out how far they could push the cheaper CMOS technology.

Their price breakthrough has been made possible by the chip-making techniques now being offered by European Silicon Structures, the pan-European chip-making company.

Last October in Aix en Provence, ES2 opened the world's first microprocessor production plant to use electron beam "direct-write" technology. By using a fine beam of electrons to write the components of microchips directly onto silicon, the process does away with the need for very expensive photolithographic masks conventionally used.

This makes the production of very low, even one-off, quantities of purpose-built chips economically viable.

The Edinburgh team developed their chip design last summer, and supplied the plans to ES2 in late autumn. In ten weeks, the company had supplied 25 working chips built to the design.

Dr David Renshaw of the department, said: "The yield of devices was superb."

As well as having a lower manufacturing cost, the CMOS chips work out less expensive because of lower level of supporting hardware they need.

Wave goodbye to all this

Pearce Wright looks at a British invention that has, not untypically, been picked up for development by a foreign company

A British wave-power invention, abandoned by the Government, has been developed successfully by a Norwegian company that has obtained orders for the device in the US, Portugal and Indonesia. Negotiations are in progress for other installations along the west coast of France and Spain, and Yugoslavia.

Its creator, Walton Bott, a consulting engineer who lives at Winchester in Hampshire, describes the loss of the invention to British industry as "a very sad story".

He believes it is due simply to the fact that the Department of Energy and the electrical industry have failed to recognize the full potential of wave energy in general.

However, a study for the European Commission concludes, in principle, that the energy available from wave-power is many times greater than the total world consumption of power.

The specific device adapted by a new firm called Norwave is known as a passive wave-power system. It was given the name by Mr Bott because the essential equipment is all located safely on shore.

Its largest component is a concrete seawall built on the shoreline. In contrast to breakwaters which protect harbours, the structures built by Norwave, are designed to help the incoming waves drive forward uphill.

They roll up a slope and then splash over into a lagoon. The only exit for the water from the lagoon is down through a turbine coupled to an electrical generator.

Norwave calls its wave-power system Tapchan, which is short for the tapered channel that is designed in such a way that the waves are pushed



forward continuously; unable to return to the sea because of the waves pushing from behind.

The first demonstration Tapchan wave-power station, a 0.5-megawatt system, has been operating north of Bergen for two years. Commercial versions are being designed with capacities ranging from 5 megawatts to 100 megawatts. According to the experience at Bergen, these will generate electricity for 3.5p to 4p a unit, which is competitive with the large fossil and nuclear power stations.

Yet the idea of passive wave-power was conceived 30 years ago by Mr Bott, when he was general manager of the Central Electricity Board, in Mauritius. Designs were prepared in conjunction with Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners, with £50,000 from the Overseas Development Administration, in 1958, for a complete wave-powered electricity grid for the island of Mauritius.

Successful scale model tests were done at the Hydraulics Research Laboratory, at Wallingford, but the subsequent

proposals to build were shelved by the Government. Though the Mauritius scheme was never completed, the designs were revived for the wave-energy programme started by the Department of Energy in 1979, then abandoned in 1982.

But the best sites for building passive systems are where the tidal range is relatively small, at about five to six feet, because the water level of the lagoon is typically 6ft higher than the mean sea level.

Mr Bott argues suggests that the tidal range in most parts of the world are ideal for passive wave-power schemes.

He said: "Unfortunately, the exceptional tidal conditions around Britain have been one of the snags in stimulating interest in the UK. The channelling of water around the British Isles are ideal for tidal barrages. The number of sites suitable for passive wave-power are limited."

Mr Bott is still refining the designs for wave-power generators, and last week he was



Passive wavepower: A calm sea is funneled into a tapering gallery (left) which gradually becomes narrower and higher and the water finally bursts out into an upper level reservoir (above). The only exit is down through a turbine. It is similar to a hydro electric scheme except that the waves provide the "fuel" instead of the rain.

exchanging ideas with engineers at Zagreb University, where they are doing similar research to his into "wave focusing", by using off-shore islands to act as "water-lenses" to direct more waves to a collector.

EVENTS

■ Cadcam 88, today until Thursday, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (01-608 1161)

■ Visit Recruitment Fair, Friday and Saturday, Cumberland Hotel, London, (01-262 1234)

■ Computer Recruitment Fair, Friday and Saturday, Rainbow Rooms, London (0491 681010)

■ Computers in Retailing, March 29-31, Metropole Hotel, Brighton (01-834 1717)

■ Scottish Computer Show, April 12-14, Glasgow (01-891 5051)

■ Computer Recruitment Fair, April 15-16, New Century Hall, Manchester (0491 681010)

■ Atari User Show, April 22-24, West Hall, Alexandra Park, London (0625 878888)

■ Computer Recruitment Fair, April 22-23, Watershed, Bristol (0491 681010)

■ British Electronics Week, April 26-28, Olympia, London

■ Computers in Manufacturing, May 10-12, Olympia, London (0872 372842)

THE TIMES



HUMOUR COMPETITION

Laughter voyage to the islands

Next week *The Times* starts a series of competitions in association with CMG Computer Management Group that will offer readers (with or without any knowledge of the computer world) the opportunity of exercising their imagination and demonstrating a sense of humour in order to win some exciting prizes and have some fun at the same time. In this section next week we shall give full details of what to do and how to enter and a full description of the prizes, which will offer competitors the chance of travelling to one of a pattern of islands. So, more next week...

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£34,263 - £37,692

The County Council is seeking a successor to Harry Turner who will retire shortly.

There has been a recent reorganisation of the Department into five all-purpose divisions, with professional and administrative support centred in Oxford.

This restructuring will provide the means of ensuring that a responsive and accessible service is available to the public, and that resources are deployed effectively. The new Director will come to the Department at a crucial point in its development and will have ample opportunity to exercise positive management and leadership.

You will need to be suitably qualified and to have a good understanding and experience of the management of a large organisation, with a social work background being desirable but not essential.

Application forms and job details from the County Personnel Officer, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND telephone (0865) 815165.

Closing date: 25th April 1988.

WORKPLACE NURSERY AVAILABLE IN OXFORD
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Tayside
Regional CouncilAPPOINTMENT OF
DEPUTY FIREMASTER
(ASSISTANT FIREMASTER)£24,396 x £588 (4) to £26,748
(Inclusive) (under review)
(Minimum salary for post: £27,261)

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced senior officers for appointment to the post of Deputy Firemaster, who will be based on 10th June 1988. Membership of the Institution of Fire Engineers and attendance at an appropriate Command Course will be considered an additional advantage.

National conditions of service will apply and the successful candidate will be required to undergo a medical examination.

The successful applicant will be required to provide his own car for use in connection with official duties. The officer appointed will be required to devote his whole time to the post and no secondary employment may be undertaken without approval of the Regional Council. Removal, legal and administrative matters will be reimbursed in accordance with National Conditions of Service.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Chief Executive, Tayside Regional Council, Tayside House, Criswell Street, Dundee DD1 9BA, telephone Dundee (0382) 23281, extension 3813, and must be returned in envelopes marked "Confidential - Appointment of Deputy Firemaster" to arrive not later than 8th April 1988.

Any relationship to any member or senior officer of the Tayside Regional Council must be disclosed.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 37

★ ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY ★ AGS INFORMATION SERVICES LTD ★ ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE PLC ★ BRITISH GAS HEADQUARTERS ★ BRITISH TELECOM ★ CAP ★ CITIBANK SAVINGS ★ DATA LOGIC A RAYTHEON COMPANY ★ DURACELL BATTERIES LTD ★ FRASER WILLIAMS ★ HILL SAMUEL INVESTMENT SERVICES GROUP ★ HONEYWELL BULL ★ INFOLINK ★ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLC ★ ISI INFORMATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL ★ ORACLE CORPORATION UK LTD ★ PETERBOROUGH SOFTWARE ★ SCICON LTD ★ SMITHS INDUSTRIES AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE SYSTEMS ★ SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP ★ WEA RECORDS ★

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25-26 MARCH 1988

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Opening hours: Friday 25 March 1030 - 1830, Saturday 26 March 1000 - 1700

How to get there: The Kensington Rainbow has its entrance in Derry Street, off Kensington High Street, 100 yards from Kensington High Street tube station.

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UNIVERSITY OF
EAST ANGLIA
NorwichDIRECTOR OF
THE
CAREERS
CENTRE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the post of Director of the Careers Centre to succeed to Mr. David Ward who will retire at the end of the current session. The post demands management, vocational counselling and administrative skills which could well have been gained through careers advisory work in higher education or possibly recruitment work with a major employer of graduates. Experience of working both within higher education and in commerce, industry, the professions or public service would be an advantage. The salary for the post, which is available from 1 September, will be at an appropriate point on the scale £15,685 to £22,910 per annum, plus USS benefits.

Informal enquiries concerning the post may be made to Dr. D.J. Matthews, Dean of Students, by telephoning 0603 592492. Applications (3 copies), which should include a full curriculum vitae, including exact date of birth, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom references may be made, should be lodged with the Establishment Officer, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ (telephone 0603 56151, Ext 2724), from whom further particulars may be obtained, not later than 22 April 1988. No forms of application are issued.

CHIEF PROPERTY
SERVICES OFFICER

£33,057 - £36,326

The Authority has established a Property Services Department and wishes to appoint a new Chief Officer. This is a challenging position and requires some one with professional and managerial skills of the highest order.

The Department is multi-disciplinary and responsible for property reorganisations, architecture, building maintenance, estates and valuation. It has over 500 employees and a gross expenditure of approximately £40m per year. The successful candidate will report directly to the Chief Executive and be a member of the Chief Officers' Group. You will be based at County Hall, located in the historic market town of Beverley on the edge of the Wolds. House prices in the area are low and there are excellent motorway and rail communications with the rest of the country.

Further details about the job can be obtained by telephoning the existing Chief Property Services Officer, Mr. M.E. Pitt, tel. (0482) 867131, Ext. 3110. Application forms are obtainable by telephoning Ext. 3269.

Closing Date: 8th April, 1988.

Humbly Grove County Council

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE FOUNDATION

ASSISTANT TO
APPEALS
DIRECTOR

Salary: £12,000

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation is a charity providing care for disabled and handicapped people in 15 Cheshire Homes and 24 Family Support Services in the United Kingdom and 150 Cheshire Homes in 47 countries overseas.

To help meet our ever-increasing needs, we have recently appointed an Honorary Appeals Director to oversee our central fund-raising activities. Applications are now invited for the new staff post of Assistant to the Appeals Director.

The successful applicant will initially be involved in studies to decide on an appropriate computer system and thereafter will be responsible for building up a data base, for analysing and reporting results, for developing contacts in the field of fund-raising generally and for the general day-to-day running of the Appeals Office. For further information and an application form, please contact: The Personnel Adviser, Leonard Cheshire House, 26-29 Mansel Street, London SW1P 2QN. 01-828-1822. Closing date for applications: 15 April, 1988.

The Diocese of Guildford
DIRECTOR
COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A vacancy for this post has arisen, the appointment to take effect in early September 1988. The post is open to women or men, lay or ordained who are committed members of the Church of England having brought other qualities, Christian commitment, theological competence and experience in social or community work. Preferred age bracket: 35-50. Salary £11,700. Housing (depending on availability or housing allowance £2400 p.a.) provided in addition. Duties include helping the Council in the Diocese to identify and meet its social responsibilities, acting as link with the relevant government and voluntary agencies and maintaining an effective organisation for the purpose. Applications by letter explaining interest, and CV giving details of education, qualifications and experience should reach the Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan House, Cornhill Street, Guildford GU1 3DG by MONDAY 25 APRIL 1988 (Interviews for shortlisted candidates 9 or 13 May)

HORIZONS

A guide to
career opportunities

Put on your dancing shoes

The therapeutic effects of
dance and movement on
disturbed people have
been known for centuries
but only recently
have the full range
of their opportunities been
realized, says

Joan Llewellyn Owens

are usually people who are stuck in habitual patterns of behaviour which are often distressing to those around them. They don't realize there are other ways of doing things and may have lost the ability to initiate creative action. "I see myself as a facilitator for change," says Helen.

Most people will not admit there is a problem in the first place. When working with heroin users, Helen's main difficulty was in getting them to admit that heroin was more powerful than they. In one of the later sessions, there was a dance involving two users, one moving as the drug, heroin, and the other as the user. The user's interpretations was that he covered while the "heroin" stood on a chair and chopped down on him as though with an axe.

Helen has recently been conducting sessions with children and adolescents who have been referred to a community home, and to a child and family clinic as a last resort and whom school social workers or police are often unable to do anything with. She consults with the referring agencies to find out the immediate problem, and both she and the client establish their goals. Aims may change in later sessions, as part of the initial goal is achieved. With an autistic child, the therapist's goal may firstly be to establish contact.

A client's expectations may sometimes be unrealistically high. Once Helen worked with a young offender who wanted very badly to be able to say a firm "no" when he returned to his peer group in an inner city. All their young lives they had been thieves, and he came from a criminal background, with an uncle in prison and a mother who received stolen goods.

During the sessions, he has practised saying no with his body as well as in words. He also performed a dance about leaving his friends and the loneliness that resulted. He emerged from this with quite a lot of distress, recognizing how difficult it was going to be not to be a criminal. "We went on to work through these difficulties," says Helen.

One of the problems for therapists is the difficulty in evaluating how effective their intervention has been. So many variables in people's lives may affect their behaviour. Perhaps they go on holiday, a missing father returns to the home, or their diet changes. In special schools, however, the therapist gets a feedback from the teachers. After several sessions, some of the children express themselves better in class and concentrate for longer periods. They may also be less resistant to authority, less likely to sit sullenly with heads hanging or act out their aggression in class.

The training of dance movement therapists is at postgraduate level. Most have first degrees in a discipline such as physical education, dance education or a background in psychology or the caring professions, but they must also possess experience in dance movement. Courses do not teach the art form, but how to synthesize and to use it in a different context. Some training in choreography is valuable, in addition to a real interest in other people and how they function, and experience of personal therapy.

Courses are available at the Leban Centre for Movement and Dance, Goldsmith's College, New Cross Road, London, SE14 6NW (two year, full-time or four year part-time MA in Dance/Movement Therapy, awarded by Hahnemann University, USA); Roehampton Institute of Higher Education, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5PU (two year part-time College Diploma; and Hertfordshire College of Art and Design, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3RS (foundation courses on 10 Wednesday evenings starting January 20, 1988). Hertfordshire College of Art and Design has just received the Secretary of State's approval to run a CNAAT part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Dance Movement Therapy. The course is being developed and the college hopes to begin it in a year or so.

The majority of those who obtain such qualifications work sessionally, but there are a number of full-time posts, several of which have been created in psychiatric and mental handicap hospitals. Family Service Units, and a therapeutic community in Scotland. Normally therapists work as members of a multi-disciplinary professional team, but not always under the title of dance/movement therapists. Some may be designated as teachers. A career structure, parallel to the other therapies, is beginning to become established and there is every hope that this form of therapy will in future become more widely available.

For further details, send a stamped, addressed envelope to The Association for Dance Movement Therapy, 99 South Hill Park, London, NW3 2SP, or apply for particulars of a week's intensive course to be held at Hertfordshire College of Art and Design next Easter.

SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY
(AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER)

High Profile Leadership Role....
Effective Corporate-Team Contribution....
Influencing and Achieving Change
Strategic NHS Involvement
That is what we expect from our...

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A Top Management, Challenging, Role
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(Up to £35,000 for Medical Applicants)
A Superb Environment in which to Live
(In a Low-Cost Housing area)

If you are high calibre and of proven experience you should be interested.

For an information package and application for telephone 0743 52277 or write to the Personnel Department, Shropshire Health Authority, The Limes, Belle Vue Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 7LP. Informal discussions may be arranged with Ken Morris, District General Manager, on the above telephone number. Closing date 8th April 1988.

Chief Executive

up to £30,000

The present Chief Executive is retiring in 1988. The Council is looking for a general manager to lead the Authority through the challenge of the 1990's. This is a demanding post which will require complete dedication well beyond the duties and Conditions of Service as laid down.

We expect applicants to demonstrate a good management track record and possess leadership, communication and people-related skills.

In turn South Shropshire, with its main centre at Ludlow, can offer you a quality of life and environment which could be considered unique in the British Isles.

Application form and details may be obtained from G. Kellet, Chief Executive, Stone House, Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1DG. Telephone: Ludlow (0584) 5015.

Closing date for applications is noon, Monday, 11th April 1988.

Interviews will be held on 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th May 1988.

South Shropshire District Council

PUBLIC & HEALTH CARE

NURSES NEEDED!
RN's EARN \$25,000

Now seeking experienced nurses to work outside the U.S. who want U.S. employment. We will prepare you for the U.S. market. The Center for Health Services, Inc., 1000 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10001, U.S.A.

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All qualified
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PUBLIC APPTS

DO YOU WANT TO WORK FOR A FORWARD LOOKING, INNOVATIVE AUTHORITY?

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE & SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT
ASSISTANT HEAD OF PERSONNEL SERVICES

- PO (39-42) £15,105-£16,325 p.a.
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- Flexible Working Hours

The Personnel Section provides an advisory and consultancy service to all the Departments of the Council, and covers the full range of Personnel activities. The postholder will report directly to the Head of Personnel and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the section, and also for the special projects undertaken. The section is currently in the process of implementing an authority-wide 30 placement Youth Training Scheme, reviewing the grading structure of its Manual employees and examining ways of harmonising the Conditions of service of the Council's employees. As well as having proven practical experience in the above areas, all applicants should be Corporate Members of the IPM by examination; have had several years general Personnel Management experience at senior level in a Public Sector environment; have had extensive experience in the preparation and presentation of reports to Senior Management and committee level; and have a sound working knowledge of relevant Employment legislation.

If you feel that you can meet the demands of this key position, then please Kevin Kirby for an informal chat about the position on (0283) 45454 extension 2304, or extension 2703 for an application form and information pack. The closing date for applications is 31st March 1988, and interviews will be held on 14th April 1988. (Cavanning will disqualify). This council is an equal opportunity employer.

East Staffordshire District Council



PUBLIC APPTS TECHNICAL

SENIOR COMPUTING ADVISOR

£13,464-£14,646

The Borders region is a rural area extending to 1,800 square miles with a population of just over 100,000. There is an excellent choice of housing, education and recreational facilities and easy access to Edinburgh, Newcastle and Carlisle.

The Computer and Management Services Department is a new department set up to help the Authority to get the best from Information Technology. We offer a full range of direct services from application development to business consultancy. We also believe it is important to help staff in other departments develop their own computer systems. We are evaluating hardware and software products for our IBM mainframe and microcomputers to make this possible. New office automation facilities will soon be introduced and the communications network is expanding to support these and other services.

We are looking for someone with good communications skills who is interested in developing and using computing and in sharing their own expertise with end users. Applicants should have strong broad-based computing experience, particularly in a support environment. Staff management experience would be an advantage.

This is an excellent opportunity for ambitious computer professionals to join a forward looking department with a strong commitment to developing Information Technology.

Closing date 28 March 1988.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Department, Regional Headquarters, Newton St. Boswell, TD6 6SA.

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Borders

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

£32,433 inclusive from 1.7.88

The proposals contained in the Government's Education Reform Bill have occasioned a review of the Polytechnic's Senior management structure. This is a new post with responsibility to the Director for developing and implementing the Polytechnic's financial management strategy for corporate status and beyond.

Candidates must be qualified Accountants with a background which will preferably include industrial or commercial experience. A knowledge and understanding of higher education and its funding is highly desirable. Fair as well as technical skill will be needed in the management to maximum advantage of the Polytechnic's finances.

The post is available from 1st June 1988 or as soon as possible thereafter. Closing date Monday 25th April 1988. Further details and method of application from the Personnel Officer, North East London Polytechnic, Romford Road, London E15 4LZ. Tel: 01-590-7722 ext 4055. Ref: 10/A/88.

NELP

NORTH EAST LONDON POLYTECHNIC

Guildford. A town with much to offer as a place to live and work; an historic borough with attractive shopping centre surrounded by countryside of outstanding beauty; well provided with sport and leisure amenities and with excellent communications which give quick and easy access to London.

Department of Technical Services

Architects

Up to £16,371 + £1,000 market allowance

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Successful applicants will handle a substantial, varied and interesting workload as key members of a section with an annual programme of £10M including £4.5M New Build.

Guildford offers an excellent remuneration package with the emphasis on reward for performance. Should you need to relocate to this area our generous and innovative relocation scheme which includes mortgage subsidy and share ownership options should be able to offer the right solution.

For an application form and further details please contact the Personnel Officer, Guildford Borough Council, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU1 5BB. Telephone: Guildford 502007 ext 2007 (24-hour answering). Please quote Post No B3 34/39 and return your application by the 1 April 1988.



Guildford BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Page Us!

For the best careers advice call Shona McDougall on 01-831 2000 (01-482 0349 evenings/weekends) or write to her at The Legal Division, Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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Experience in litigation and property desirable.
Salary negotiable.

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The first is based at our City Court. Here you'll find volume, variety and a complexity of cases on a daily basis.

The other is within our North West Leicestershire Group of Divisions. Based at Hinckley, you will travel around the county, gaining extensive experience across the whole spectrum of urban court work. A casual car users allowance will be paid.

JNC conditions of service apply. Generous relocation expenses will be paid where applicable.

If you're looking for variety, scope and progression we'd like to hear from you. Apply in the first instance for an application form to Mrs. K. Tolton, on Leicester (0533) 549922 ext. 7803. Leicestershire Magistrates' Courts Committee, P.O. Box 1, Town Hall, Leicester LE1 9BE. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Monday 11th April 1988.

FINANCIAL



UNIVERSITY OF WALES
PRIFYSGOL CYMRU

FINANCE OFFICER

Applications are invited from qualified accountants with appropriate experience, for the post of Finance Officer of the University of Wales, tenable from 1st August, 1988, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Finance Officer will be a member of the University Registrar's senior management team, located at the University Registry, Cardiff.

The salary for the post will be within the range for Admin. Staff Grade 6, the minimum of which is £23,380 per annum.

Application forms and further particulars are available from the University Registrar, University of Wales, University Registry, King Edward VII Avenue, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NS. (Closing date 30 April 1988).

HEALTH CARE

Continued from page 38

**EAST BERKSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY
WEXHAM PARK HOSPITAL
THEATRES**

Staff Nurses and Enrolled Nurses full or part-time to work in our busy suite of 6 theatres.

Specialities include General, Orthopaedics, Plastic Surgery, ENT and Dental, Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Theatre experience an advantage but not essential as inservice training will be given.

Application forms from the Personnel Department, Wexham Park Hospital, tel: Slough 34567 Ext 4005.

Informal visit/enquiries to Mrs Anne Fox, Clinical Nurse Manager on Slough 34567 by bleep.

HEATHERLANDS HOUSE LIMITED

184 Forest Road, Tunbridge Wells
A home for 31 profoundly physically and mentally handicapped young adults require the following staff:

SEN or SEN(MS)

£7,500 per annum

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Please apply to: The Administrator, on (0852) 36591.

**EAST BERKSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY
WEXHAM PARK HOSPITAL
STAFF NURSES & ENROLLED NURSES FOR ITU REQUIRED**

Good experience to be gained in our busy 5 bed unit which deals with patients requiring intensive therapy following major surgery, traumatic injury and respiratory disorders.

Previous experience desirable but not essential as training will be given.

Informal visits/enquiries to Mrs Anne Fox, Clinical Nurse Manager, on Slough 34567 by bleep.

Application forms from the Personnel Department, Wexham Park Hospital, Tel: Slough 34567 Ext 4005.

**EAST BERKSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY
WEXHAM PARK HOSPITAL
SISTER/CHARGE NURSE I.T.U.**

Required for the above 5 bed unit. Wonderful experience to be gained in the unit which deals with patients requiring intensive therapy following major surgery, traumatic injury and respiratory disorders.

Good managerial responsibility also to be gained in this busy unit. ENB 100 required.

Informal visits/enquiries to Mrs A Fox, Clinical Nurse Manager on Slough 34567 by bleep.

Application forms from the Personnel Department, Wexham Park Hospital, tel: Slough 34567 Ext 4005.

PUBLIC APPTS LEGAL

The Case for Croydon

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLICITORS AND LEGAL EXECUTIVES

Our Legal Division is currently expanding to meet the varied needs of Local Government.

The Right to Buy, Competitive Tendering, Planning, Social Services and criminal work have created exciting opportunities for people interested in areas of Contracts, Conveyancing, Land and the Community.

If you have the enthusiasm to meet a challenge, then perhaps you've got the energy to join our team of Solicitors and Legal Executives. Experienced or recently/part qualified, Croydon will be the natural choice for you. Your salary will depend on your qualifications and experience.

Croydon's case is further strengthened by its fast road and rail links with London and the South Coast, and its pleasant blend of Town and Country. A generous relocation package is available.

Applicants interested in part-time or job sharing will be welcomed.

For job descriptions and an information package, please telephone the Head of Personnel and Productivity Services on 01-760 5551.

Closing date: April 8, 1988.

CROYDON
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01 467 3462.

Deputy Town Clerk

£22,656-£24,924 per annum
plus Lump Sum Car Allowance

Following the present postholder's appointment as Chief Executive with another local authority, applications are invited from experienced solicitors for this post, which carries Chief Officer salary and status and membership of the Management Team.

The Deputy Town Clerk is responsible to the Chief Executive Officer and Town Clerk for the day to day management control and co-ordination of the Town Clerk's Department, the main functions of which include Committee administration, legal services and provision of common office services.

The successful applicant will be a qualified solicitor with extensive local government experience and proven management ability, with the personal qualities necessary to lead and motivate others to the highest standard of performance in achieving the Council's objectives.

In addition to the salary, the Council offers temporary housing accommodation and an attractive relocation package is also available in approved cases. For further information on the post contact Mr. M.M. Abbott, Personnel and Management Services Officer - (telephone Burnley (0282) 25011 Ext. 2160.

An application form and further details can be obtained from the Chief Executive Officer and Town Clerk's Department, P.O. Box 17, Town Hall, Burnley BB11 1JA (Ext. 2162) to whom they should be returned by Friday, 8th April 1988.

BURNLEY
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- Age not more than 30.

Initially based in Victoria Street, it is anticipated that as part of our Head Office's relocation, the Legal Department will be moving to a new purpose-built office in an attractive location at Leatherhead, Surrey in 1990. Relocation assistance will be provided where appropriate.

Please send a full CV to: Head of Recruitment, Eso Petroleum Company Limited, Eso House, Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JW. Eso is an Equal Opportunity Employer and positively welcomes applications from men and women and members of ethnic minority groups.



SUFFOLK MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

COURT CLERK
£11418 - £16029

Applications are invited from Barristers or Solicitors for the appointment of Court Clerk in Bury St Edmunds.

Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of two referees, should reach me not later than Friday 25 March 1988. For details please telephone Bury St Edmunds 763141.

M J Gray, Esq., LL.B.
Clerk to the Justices
Shire Hall
BURY ST EDMUNDS
IP33 1HF

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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To £28,240

Croydon

The Conveyancing Department of the Post Office Solicitor's Office, which is situated in Croydon, is responsible for all operational conveyancing and advice on some 3,000 Post Office properties throughout England and Wales.

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In return we offer a salary in the range of £18,942 - £28,240 depending on experience. Benefits include a contributory superannuation scheme, 5 weeks' annual holiday plus relocation assistance where necessary.

Applicants, preferably aged between 27 and 40, should apply for an application form to Martin Gibson, Post Office Headquarters, Room 536, 33 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 1PX (telephone 01-245 7083).

Closing date for returned application is 8 April 1988.

The Post Office is an equal opportunities employer.

The Post Office

Construction Law

Partnership Opportunity

Our client is one of the leading City law firms. The Construction section of the firm's Litigation Department seeks a senior lawyer as its operational Head.

The successful applicant is likely to be a partner or senior assistant in private practice. Consideration will also be given to lawyers with appropriate experience in industry.

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To discuss this matter further, in strict confidence, please telephone Piers Williams or Barrie Pope on 01-405 6852 or write to us at Reuter Simkin Limited, 26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE.

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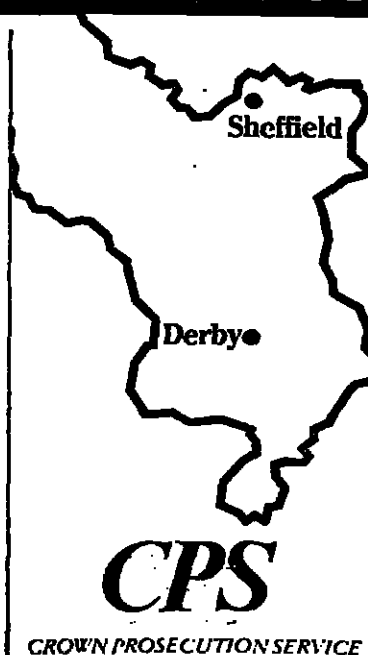
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Ovett on inner cities panel

By John Goodbody

The Government yesterday set up a major review of sport and recreation in the inner cities. Steve Ovett, the 1980 Olympic 800 metres champion, Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies cricket captain, and Jeff Thompson, the world karate champion, are members of the eight-strong group chaired by Colin Moylan, the Minister for Sport.

The impetus for the review has come from the Prime Minister, who recently announced in launching the "Action for Cities" campaign that Moylan would be examining how more private support "for the right kinds of scheme" can be secured for sport in inner cities.

Hambros is giving £6,000 to support the cost of the review, which is expected to be completed by the end of 1988. Moylan said yesterday: "As the prime minister has said, the Government's comprehensive approach to improving life in the inner cities includes help with sport and recreational facilities.

"Many agencies, especially in the public and voluntary sectors, are already involved in developing and promoting sport and recreational opportunities in inner cities." He said he thought that sport and recreation can "act as a catalyst" in deprived areas.

The review will consider the provision of facilities in inner cities and the group has already written to the regional councils of the Sports Council for preliminary reports. Then the group will travel to the sites.

Asked whether he thought he would be depressed or encouraged by what he found, Moylan replied: "We will be challenged by what we find." Asked if he thought extra money would be needed for facilities, he said: "I cannot pre-empt the outcome of the review, but if this is one of the conclusions then it will be my duty to bring it to the attention of the relevant minister."

Of the £38.8 million directly given to sport through the Sports Council, £11 million is directed at inner cities, apart from the money from local authorities, who in total spend about £300 million in Britain on sports and recreation.

Other members of the group are Tony Mallin, the former international oarsman and executive director of Hambros Bank; professor Allan Patmore, vice-chairman of the Sports Council; Judith Mackay, a member of the Council since 1982; and Dave Allen, chairman of DHL International (UK). They will be aided by staff of the Department of the Environment and the Sports Council.

His war chest replenished, Robert Sangster is out to recapture his position as British racing's leading owner

Tycoon in pursuit of greater glories

Who will provide the success stories of the Flat racing season, which begins on Thursday? In the first of a three-part series by Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent, Robert Sangster sets out his challenge to his Arab rivals



The stars look down: With pictures of his great horses around him, Sangster is planning a new campaign (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

Robert Sangster emerged cheerfully through the front door of the Nuneham, his greystone eighteenth-century home on the outskirts of Oxford. The red flag of the Isle of Man was flying from one of the turrets. Sangster was in a grey pinstripe suit, a stocky, energetic figure, he moved briskly as he led me into his office.

For someone seen to be on a downward curve in the world of racing, he presented an image of remarkable good humour. The reason is that after two lean years, his green and blue colours were once again to be seen in 1987, and he confronts the new season with bouncing confidence.

Sangster, aged 51, was Britain's leading racehorse owner five times in eight flat seasons until 1985. Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai has reigned in the three years since then: he won £1,232,000 in 1987, and Sangster was third with £468,000. So Sangster is seen as the principal victim of the Arab invasion and yet still as Britain's chief hope of regaining the prime position; after all, he had 73 winners last season.

On a wall of his office hangs the pedigree of Audrey Joan, the foundation mare of the Swettenham Stud, his former Cheshire breeding centre. Opposite his desk are oils of The Minstrel and Golden Fleece, his winners of the Derby in 1977 and 1982. They represent the success, the near-invincibility, which Sangster is attempting to restore, not only for himself but also for his partnership with Vincent O'Brien and John Magnier.

Sangster's ally in his ambition is his old friend, Barry Hills, now the trainer at Sangster's estate at Manton, in Wiltshire, after the unhappy year with Michael Dickinson. Of Sangster's 73 winners in 1987, the majority came from Hills's total of 96 successes in Britain. There should be further

progress this year, for Gallic League, Glacial Storm, Sparrow's Air and Timely all have group one potential. And, at Ballydoyle in Ireland, O'Brien has the leading 2,000 Guineas candidate, Caerwent.

The winner of last season's National Stakes at the Curragh, Caerwent is a 20-1 chance to give Sangster his third and Vincent O'Brien his fifth victory in the Newmarket Classic. He has his first outing of 1988 in the Harp Lager 2,000 Guineas Trial at Phoenix Park on April 2.

At Manton, Hills is optimistic for Glacial Storm, an impressive winner of Newbury's Horris Hill Stakes last October. "He's wintered well and will go for either the English or Irish Derby," he said.

Gallic League showed himself to be the fastest two-year-old over six furlongs in the country last season when winning the Middle Park Stakes, and he is to be aimed at the top sprint prizes. Of the fillies, the unbeaten Sparrow's Air is considered likely to develop into a leading candidate for the Oaks.

Sangster regards them with the same enthusiasm he shows when he talks of the growth of his racing empire. His friendship with John Magnier, nowadays the head of the

Coolmore Stud and an Irish senator, was the catalyst that originally lifted Sangster into the big time.

They joined forces with Vincent O'Brien, the Irish training genius, and sparked off nothing less than a revolution, not only in their fortunes, but also in the European bloodstock industry.

The trainer had won the triple crown in 1970 with Nijinsky II, one of Northern Dancer's sons. Perceiving the suitability of the stock of the highly strung but explosively fast stallion for the demands of European racing, O'Brien formed international syndicates to buy his offspring and also those of other leading North American stallions.

In 1977 the Sangster-O'Brien-Magnier partnership struck gold. The Minstrel, Alleged, Artaius, Be My Guest and Godswalk, the English and Irish Derbys, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe... the great races of Europe fell to the team, with the help of Lester Piggott in the saddle.

The success snowballed. In 1982 Golden Fleece and Assent—trained by David O'Brien, Vincent's son—

credited Sangster with victories in the English, French and Irish Derbys. There was another bonanza two years later with El Gran Señor and Sadlers Wells stamping themselves as stallions of the future by collecting five group one races.

Quickly realizing the potential of the new money game, the Arabs with their petro-dollar fortunes, Stavros Niarchos and Allen Paulson, the Florida aircraft manufacturer, joined the hunt for what they had come to regard as gold on the hoof.

Battle was joined in the arenas of the top yearling auctions, particularly the Keeneland July Sale. For the first time, the Sangster syndicate found its financial supremacy challenged; the bidding soared dizzily. The climax was reached when Sheikh Mohammed paid \$10.2 million (£5,574,000) for Snaafi Dancer in 1983. Even though young stallions like El Gran Señor and Sharaf Dancer were being syndicated for around \$40 million, this still represented an unrealistic bet of odds of 3-1 against the yearling realizing its maximum potential.

Then came the inevitable reaction: a realization by the Arabs that their over-enthusiasm needed rationalizing, and an awareness by

the market that too many high-priced stallions were being created. There was a slump in bloodstock values; nothing serious but enough to cause financial embarrassment to those who had become mesmerized by the spiral.

Rumours that Sangster might be in financial difficulties were apparently confirmed when Vernons Pools, the family firm, was recently sold for £90 million. Sangster acknowledged the existence of outstanding loans, but he denied Vernons was sold through necessity.

"In this life everything is for sale except the wife," he said. "It was an offer I couldn't refuse. It was a good price and I wouldn't have sold for less. I've paid off £40 million of loans—not £70 million as has been published—and the Sangster Group, a family trust, has now got £50 million available for investment in other areas." He added that a further £21 million was raised by sales of bloodstock in 1987.

Apart from the recession in bloodstock values, the failure of O'Brien to have saddled a Classic winner since Law Society in the Irish Derby in 1985 and the disastrous experiment of installing Michael Dickinson as his private trainer at Manton were other

reasons for Sangster's troubles.

Dickinson, the National Hunt trainer extraordinary, had been headhunted by Sangster since 1984. "I thought I'd been a genius to have snatched him from under the nose of the Arabs," he said. "The situation with the top trainers, like Henry Cecil and Michael Stoute, had become impossible. The lads were falling over themselves to do the Arab horses as they were so generous."

In Dickinson's first year, 1986, at Manton, he won only four races, worth £13,965. "It was the first time I've ever sacked a trainer. Looking at it now, he was five years ahead of his time. But what had worked with geldings probably upset more highly strung young colts and fillies. I could no longer afford the time for him to perfect his theories."

The purchase and modernization of the 2,300-acre Manton estate set Sangster back £8 million and the annual running costs still total £1.5 million.

But he can now regard Manton as a potentially profitable part of his international portfolio: about 1,000 horses worldwide, including brood mares, foals, yearlings, stallions and horses in training; leading owner and breeder in Australia in 1987 (his Special won an Aus\$200,000 race last Saturday); and further interests in the United States and South Africa.

Last year was a most successful one for the stallions at Coolmore Stud. Lomond and Caerleon were the leading first-season sires in Britain and Ireland. And between them Ahonoora and Be My Guest were responsible for Don't Forget Me, Most Welcome, Invited Guest and Guest Performer.

Those who doubt Sangster's financial soundness are flying in the face of obvious facts. Sadlers Wells, with an annual earning power of £4 million in stud fees, must be worth £16 million on the open market.

However, the going in this superficially glamorous business is tough and it is going to get tougher. Sangster, O'Brien and Magnier have been the trend-setters in the bloodstock boom in the past 15 years. But having sown the seeds of competition and pointed the way, are they going to reap the Arab whirlwind in the 1990s? The battle is going to be as fascinating as any classic on the turf.

TOMORROW

Guy Harwood with a leading trainer's hopes and fears for the season

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Barking & Dagenham

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